



ISSUE 45

SUMMER 1996

## TELEPHONE COURTESY OR HOW TO MAKE ENEMIES WITHOUT EVEN TRYING

Susan M. Garrett

Most fannish business is conducted by mail or in person. This is by unspoken agreement between fanzine readers, contributors, and editors. Fandom could probably continue quite well had Mr. Alexander Graham Bell never been born, albeit with a lot more money spent on postage. The rules for telephone usage are quite simple. The most important thing to remember is that phoning is a privilege, not a right.

*When should I use the phone to call an editor, or a writer, or an artist, or anyone?*

If you are one of those people who cannot express themselves well in writing or wait for a written response, you may ask someone for permission to phone them. You do this by writing to them and asking them for their permission to call, the correct number or extension if permission is granted, and when they would be free to accept your call. If you are polite and responsible and mention *why* you feel you need to talk to them over the phone, they may give you permission to use their number.

If the person does not want you to call them under any circumstances, be willing to take "no" for an answer and do

not take the rejection personally. Many people cannot accept calls at business locations, others feel that their home number is a private line for friends, families and emergencies, and others may have relatives at home who would be disturbed by the phone ringing. If the someone says "no", accept it and do not pursue the matter any further.

*I don't want to bother writing because I want an answer right away, so should I go to directory assistance and get someone's number?*

NO. Never ever go to directory assistance for a number, no matter what your question and/or concern unless the person has previously given you their number and permission and you have possibly mislaid it. If you were not given permission to use their number, you do not have the right to go to directory assistance to ask for a number. A common argument is that people who do not wish to be disturbed usually have their number unlisted but this is no longer the case — many people don't bother having their number protected because such protection is now

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circumvented by the telephone company selling even unlisted numbers to businesses and what-not. If you use directory assistance, expect the person to hang up on you. I would.

***Can I give a friend someone's number, if I've got permission to use it?***

NO. A telephone number given to you for your use should never be given out to other people unless permission has been received for the other person. Again, a commercial business may advertise its number and those numbers are perfectly free to be passed around, but the telephone number of an editor or contributor or fan is a private number and should not be given without that person's consent. Fandom is not a business.

***If I have permission, what time should I call?***

Arrange this with the person you are calling when you ask for their number — it's only polite. As a rule, never call a home telephone number during the early morning, before 10:00 a.m., or after 9:00 p.m. at night. Keep in mind that it is very disturbing to receive a call when you've just settled down to your dinner and paper, or you've just put the baby to sleep and the phone wakes him again, or you're awakened out of a sound sleep by the telephone. Also remember that some fans live with their families or with friends and that a number may have many extensions, some of which may be in a bedroom or nursery.

***What about emergency phone calls or collect calling?***

Two major no-no's. Never call collect unless you've arranged it beforehand. And never break in on someone's call unless the situation is a genuine emergency ... and knowing how many copies of a zine are left or the status of an order are NOT emergencies. Letting a fan know that another fan has just suffered a major accident or that a family member is in trouble could be an emergency. Try to draw on some common sense, or you may make an enemy for life.

***When should I NOT phone someone?***

The list could run for three or four days, but here are some major abuses.

- Do *not* phone someone when you want to know what issues of a fanzine are available.

- Do *not* phone someone when you want to know when a zine is going to print.

- Do *not* phone someone when you want to know why you haven't gotten a contributor's copy or your order if your friend has gotten theirs.

- Do *not* phone someone when you want to know if it's too late to submit something to a zine.

- Do *not* phone someone when you want to know if someone would like to contribute to a zine.

- Do *not* phone someone when you want to know if an artist or writer is on deadline and you haven't gotten their permission to use their number.

- Do *not* phone someone when you want to know if an issue of a fanzine contains certain material.

- Do *not* phone someone when you want to know about fan clubs or fanzines in the area.

And always keep in mind that writing is a good deal cheaper than phoning!

***Who CAN I call?***

Conventions and fan clubs usually have someone who is prepared to answer phone calls for the purposes of information and troubleshooting. It is considered rude to call collect unless they give you permission, and don't be surprised if they won't accept the charges. Remember that a fan club may sponsor a fanzine, but a fanzine does not always mean that a club is involved. If you have questions, *write* to the club or convention — if they've got their act together, they'll probably answer you as soon as possible as well as give you a telephone number to contact if you ask. And if you'd like them to phone you ... give them permission to use *your* number.

***What can I do if someone is calling me without permission and consistently hassling me?***

There are people who ignore common courtesy and common sense and will abuse the privilege of phoning — calling at all hours, phoning without permission, leaving messages with parents and siblings about drawing pornographic illos, etc. Tell them quite simply and politely that you do not appreciate their rudeness and that you are not available, then *hang up*. Most people will take the hint.

Some people, however, are so brain damaged that such subtleties will not pierce their thick grey cells. You do have several options, depending on how extreme you feel the situation is. If you have an answering machine, and you feel it's worth the bother, use it to screen your incoming calls until the person takes the hint and goes away.

Simply changing your number is an option, but in reality there's nothing simple about it. Do you really want to have to contact everyone who you wish to have your number and notify them of the change, simply because of someone else's lack of intelligence? If the situation has become that extreme, you are well within your rights to contact the telephone company's business office — or your local police. Recurring unwanted calls are considered harassment and if you know who is calling and from where, the police can do something about it.

Your telephone directory should contain instructions on who to contact for help if you're receiving harassing, threatening, or obscene phone calls. Keep in mind the difference between annoying and psychotic — that should help you determine what help you need. Such measures may seem excessive, but remember that the person who hassles you will probably continue to hassle other people in self-absorbed ignorance unless someone stops them.

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### Conclusion

The telephone, as well as any communications medium, should be used with courtesy — this applies to editors, writers, artists, readers, and basically anyone old enough to pick up a phone and dial a number. If you don't have

written permission to use a number, don't use other ways of finding that person's number. Arrange a convenient time to talk to them if they do give you permission and never call collect unless arranged beforehand — permission does not include the right to be rude.

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## MediaWest Con Report

### Judith Yuenger

This year's MediaWest was different from others that I have attended in the past. It seemed to be more of a Relaxacon than anything else. There was still the Dealer's Room feeding frenzy although this year it didn't seem to be quite so frenzied. There seemed to be fewer dealers this year — many that I'd seen for years seemed to be missing. There were very few room dealers this year. We usually make several room runs a day and this time only made one or two during the entire con.

The panels also seemed to be less attended than in past years. I don't know if this was caused by apathy or fewer people attending the con. I do know that they had a sign at the hotel registration saying that they had rooms available. Panels included "Do we really need to see the first trilogy?", "Writers and Artists Workshop", "Fandom Intro Gen", "The Collectible Card Game", "Obi-Wan — Protective martyr or manipulative liar?", and "Do the pro novels fit into the fannish universe?"

SW zines that debuted here were *A Tremor in the Force* #9, *Bright Center of the Universe* #6, *Elusive Lover* (from Germany), *Flip of a Coin* #17 (Harrison Ford), *The Force of Fate* (novel), *I Have a Bad Feeling About This* #2 (from Scotland), *Sarlaac* (from Sweden), *Snowfire* #2, *The Sacrifice* (a reprint of stories), *Tales From the Cantina* #3, and *Tales of a New Republic* #2.

The STAR aWARDs were well attended and were held in the Imperial Room courtesy of the Forces of the Empire. I'd like to thank them for the use of their facility. The medals and certificates were presented by the lovely Oola (who used her tentacles to good advantage). Thanks, Oola. A SW Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Cheree Cargill. When I first got into SW, it was considered a "dying fandom." Cheree was still printing *A Tremor in the Force* and *Southern Enclave*. SE was one of the few places where SW fans could discuss their favorite topic. She has done much to keep SW fandom going and this was

the recognition that she so justly deserves. Thanks, Cheree. I was also given a medal and certificate for "Outstanding Contributions to SW Fandom." (I know who instigated this and I'm going to *kill* you!!!) Seriously, it was a lovely gesture and I can't tell you how much I appreciated it. Thanks from the bottom of my heart. It is proudly displayed in my home.

It was a good con. This time we seemed to have more time to spend sitting around and actually talking to people, not only catching up on the latest news from everyone but discussing our favorite topic of conversation — *Star Wars*.

#### *A Note from Cheree:*

I want to thank you all sincerely for the SW Lifetime Achievement Award with which I was presented at the STAR aWARDs. I was taken totally by surprise and rendered absolutely speechless!

I really don't deserve this honor. Without the support and continued contributions of active fans, SW fandom would indeed have died. There are many, many people who should share in this award for keeping SW fandom alive and well even during the years when it seemed to be fading away — Maggie Nowakowska, Wanda Lybarger, Paula Truelove and Jenny McAdams (publishers of *Flip of a Coin*), Pat Nussman, Jacqueline Taero, Nancy Stasulis, Mary Jean Holmes, Tim Blaes, Matthew Whitney, Pat Grant and the Forces of the Empire group, Mark and Melea Fisher, and others too numerous to name. All these folks should be sharing this award, for they too kept SW fandom alive and kicking.

So, while I am proud and delighted to display the award I received and will cherish it, I will never forget that it does not belong solely to me. Every one of you has a part of it and SW fandom would not be what it is today without the dedication of every SW fan out there. Thank you!

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# THE STAR AWARDS

## SW Zine:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

*Imperium* #5 — Editor: Arwen Rosenbaum

*On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* #8 — Editors: Mark and Melea Fisher

*Bright Center of the Universe* #5 — Editor: Ming Wathne

*The Rest of the Garbage* #1 — Editor: Z. P. Florian

## Multi-Media Zine

### Containing SW:

*Texas Revelations* #2 — Editor: Candace Pulleine

## Foreign SW Zine:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

*The Ormand Factor* — Editor: Louise Turner

*Bounty Hunter* #5 — Editor: James Simmonds

*Alliance* — Editor: Cavell Gleeson

## Newsletter/Letterzine:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

*Southern Enclave* — Editor: Cheree Cargill

*Bound by the Force* — Editor: Pat Grant

*Trilogy Times of New Jersey* — Editor: Jim Lavin

## Vignettes - 1-3 pgs:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

“Reversal of Fortune” by Mary Jo Fox (*I Don't Care What You Smell* #1)

“Decent Proposal” by Mary Jo Fox (*On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* #8)

“To Call the Darkness Light” by Pat Nussman (*Imperium* #5)

“What Might Have Been” by Marti Schuller (*On a Clear Day...* #8)

## Short Stories - 4-10 pgs:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

“Of Time & Regret” by Veronica Wilson (*On a Clear Day...* #8)

“Weight Wars” by Cheree Cargill (*I Don't Care What You Smell* #1)

“Ground Grunts” by J. P. Treleaven (*Imperium* #5)

“The Art of Jedi” by M. J. Mink (*I Don't Care What You Smell* #1)

## Medium Stories - 11-29 pgs:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

“Rancor Delivery” by Z. P. Florian (*I Don't Care What You Smell* #1)

“Festa Fiasco” by Marti Schuller (*I Don't Care What You Smell* #1)

“The Princess and the Nerfherder” by Carolyn Golledge (*Bright Center...* #5)

“Jewels of Destiny” by Veronica Wilson (*Imperium* #5)

## Long Stories - 30+ pgs:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

“Between the Lines” by Susan Zahn (*On a Clear Day You Can See...* #8)

“The Haelon” by Marti Schuller (*On a Clear Day You Can See...* #8)

“The Things We Do For Love” by Susan Matthews (*Bright Center...* #5)

“Honeymooners” by A. G. Steyn (*Bright Center of the Universe* #5)

## Novels:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

“Lair of the Blue Falcon” by J. A. Berger

“Ormand Factor II” by Louise Turner

“Danna's Song” by Chandra Henley

## Filks:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

“Ballad of the Bankrupt Fan” by Jacqueline Taero (*I Don't Care What You Smell* #1)

“The Corellian Gypsy Song” by Maggie Nowakowska (*I Don't Care What You Smell* #1)

“Master Ben” by M. J. Mink (*I Don't Care What You Smell* #1)

“I Wanna Be a Jedi” by Deborah Kittle (*I Don't Care What You Smell* #1)

## Poems:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

Hon. Men:

“O Bothans! My Bothans!” by Liz Sharpe (*I Don't Care What You Smell* #1)

“Obsession” by Veronica Wilson (*Imperium* #5)

“Peace” by Marti Schuller (*I Don't Care What You Smell* #1)

“A Wookiee's Eye View” Jennifer Moore (*On a Clear Day You Can See...* #8)

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<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	<b>A. G. Steyn for Cartoons in <i>I Don't Care What You Smell</i> #1</b>
Hon. Men:	Gerald Crotty for cartoons in <i>I Don't Care What You Smell</i> #1
Hon. Men:	Wanda Lybarger for cartoons in <i>I Don't Care What You Smell</i> #1
Hon. Men:	Sheryl Haven for "Corellian Tech Courses" ( <i>I Don't Care What You Smell</i> #1)
<b>Cover Artist:</b>	<b>Gerald Crotty for the front cover of <i>The Ormand Factor II</i></b>
Hon. Men:	A. G. Steyn for the back cover of <i>I Don't Care What You Smell</i> #1
Hon. Men:	Marla Fair for the front cover of <i>Imperium</i> #5
Hon. Men:	Melea Fisher for the back cover of <i>On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah</i> #8
<b>Illustration Artist:</b>	<b>Melea Fisher for illos in <i>Imperium</i> #5 and <i>On A Clear Day You Can See Dagobah</i> #8</b>
Hon. Men:	Wanda Lybarger for <i>Imperium</i> #5, <i>Dagobah</i> #8, and <i>Bright Center of the Universe</i> #5
Hon. Men:	Gerald Crotty for <i>The Ormand Factor II</i> and <i>I Don't Care What You Smell</i> #1
Hon. Men:	Nancy Stasulis for <i>I Don't Care What You Smell</i> #1

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## REVIEWING THE FLEET

*City of Bones* by Martha Wells.

Reviewed by Z. P. Florian

The second pro novel of Martha Wells hit the bookstores. Titled *City of Bones*, it's the kind of book that helps hard core SW fans survive until the next trilogy comes out. Also recommended as a healing device to those who suffered serious psychological injuries while reading pro SW novels. Obligatory reading for every deeply committed Han fan. All other organic beings should read it just because it's a good book. It draws you into a beautifully drawn, hauntingly real and fully imaginary universe. It draws you in so well that, after a few pages, you will actually live in the eight-tiered city, know the people in it. You will share precious water with them, sleep in the corner of their room, walk on their streets as you climb to the top tiers of this marvelous city to see its rulers and prevent the impending disaster...

The main character is what I'd call an alternative Han Solo, somewhat less confident, but that's understandable if you consider that the most valuable assets of the man are his bones, which can be sold as fortune-telling trinkets. But there is the talent for improvisation, the honor, the speech patterns, that make him a viable incarnation of the intrepid Corellian. We all know what splendid Han Martha Wells

can write.

There is a good plot, the kind you can't put down, adventure, excitement, and Holmesian investigation pulling you deeper into the events. For those who appreciate it, there are breathtaking descriptions of alien architecture and art — no, not the long-winded boring kind, not at all — and intricate relationships between characters with the underlying questions of trust, ambition and love ... almost. The "almost" part of it is especially valuable, considering that most authors would simply let the two main characters fall into each others' arms and ride off into the sunset. The climax of the book is unique and about as dizzying as the X-wing flight over the Death Star. By the time you read this, it should be out in paperback in the SF section of your bookstore. And when you're done reading it, join me in a solemn prayer for a sequel. Especially one that also features her rather Anakinesque "villain".

For those who missed it, the first pro novel of Martha Wells is *The Element of Fire*. Far less starwarsy than *City of Bones*, more in the wizardy vein, but also a pleasure to read.

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## CHARACTER BIOGRAPHY

Compiled by Judith Yuenger  
from the SW Screen Saver by LucasArts  
(Two or three of these biographies will be printed in every issue)

NAME: WEDGE ANTILLES  
SEX: MALE  
RACE: CORELLIAN  
HEIGHT: 1.71 meters

Wedge grew up around freighters and starships. His parents managed a fueling station off the last planet in the Gus Treta system. They were used to dealing with both pirates and the police, as it usually wasn't over a very serious matter. But one fatal day while Wedge was away at upper division schooling, a smuggler got spooked while refueling and blasted free from the hanger without releasing the shiplock couplings. The ship and the station went up in flames.

When Wedge learned of this, he abandoned any aspirations he may have had kicking around, and used the insurance money to buy a stocklight freighter of his own. He knew stardrives and repulsor lift mechanics and modified the ship to serve his own purposes. He wanted his ship to be good enough to earn him money legitimately. He wanted work amongst the minority, the honest businessman. But this was a fruitless dream, as the money made honestly was not enough to sustain him. He had to resort to smuggling.

He made sure that if he was going to become a pirate, it would be for a noble cause, and the Rebellion seemed more than noble. It was admirable. He began by running arms to the Rebel outposts throughout the galaxy, learning of more and more atrocities committed by the Empire. He had a fair number of run-ins with Imperial fighter craft, where he proved himself to be an indispensable fighter pilot. Since then, he has flown escort sorties for Rebel convoys and surveillance ships.

NAME: BIGGS DARKLIGHTER  
SEX: MALE  
RACE: HUMAN  
HEIGHT: 1.83 METERS

Born to wealthy food merchants on Tatooine, Biggs was raised with more advantages than most of his friends. In fact, it tended to keep him from making friends. His father gave him everything he could want, in the hopes of occupying the time he didn't spend with his son. But money is no substitute for a father's love.

Biggs started spending more and more time in Anchorhead with others his age. Many of them kept distant, allowing their parents' opinion of his father to taint their opinion of him. But Luke Skywalker was raised to judge by one's merit. The two became steadfast friends and pushed each other through unspoken competition. They raced T-16's through Beggar's Canyon, dreaming of the day the two of them would join the Imperial Academy. Their plan was to serve their time for the Imperial Navy then go into partnership in a starshipping route. But when the time came, Luke had to stay behind to help on the farm while Biggs' father got his son enrolled with benefits.

After a sterling training record, Biggs graduated with honors. His first assignment was as first mate to the frigate *Rand Ecliptic*. He had a little time before his tour was to begin, though, so he returned to Tatooine long enough to update Luke on his plans. While he was at the Academy, Biggs met a circle of Rebel sympathizers who brought him into their ranks. The group of them were going to jump ship and join the Alliance and he hoped one day Luke would be able to find them.

After turning AWOL, Biggs and the other Rebels made their way to Massassi station on Yavin IV by smuggling routes. There he served the Rebellion proudly until his heroic death in the Battle of Yavin.



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## BULLETIN BOARD

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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### GET WELL SOON TO...

*Pat Grant* who had surgery on March 28 to remove a disc in her neck. By the time this issue sees print, Pat will know if she must have more surgery in May. Our thoughts and prayers are with you! Keep us posted!

### CLUBS

Forces of the Empire  
c/o Pat Grant  
2343 N. Cedar St., Apt. A  
Holt, MI 48842

### ERRATA...

From: M. J. Mink

Did you know there's an online SW fanfic newsletter? They've printed two issues reviewing and giving info on online stories, and the third issue is supposed to have an

article about zines. Tracy Duncan (no, not THAT Tracy Duncan) is the editor, and she'd like to have more zine people involved — she says most of their online subscribers aren't aware of zines!

If you'd like to be put on her mailing list, her AOL address is: Dunc397@AOL.com. The two back issues of the newsletter are posted at:

<http://members.aol.com/dunc397/cpov.html>

From: Lisa Cowan

### News bits:

According to Hollywood columnist Marilyn Beck, a nationwide casting search will soon be underway for a young man to play Anakin Skywalker. Also being sought is a "young Queen" — a teenage girl who can convey the wisdom and poise of a natural ruler, and who also shows promise of blossoming into a sensual exotic beauty. Pretty tall call!

Every movie studio around would love to distribute the next SW films, but my sources tell me that 20th Century Fox has the first crack at an offer. And like they'd refuse, right?

It is a good bet that George Lucas will direct at least the first of the new SW films. He will be very closely involved with all three. Also John Williams has already been asked to compose the music.

The date for the release of the Special Edition, digitally enhanced SW movie has been set as February 21, 1997. Lucas and 20th Century Fox are negotiating deals to enhance and re-release both TESB and ROTJ. No details or dates on those re-releases yet.

George Lucas has finished most of his work on the scripts for the next SW movies and he is now working on a script for a fourth Indiana Jones film to star Harrison Ford and to be directed by Steven Spielberg.

Mark Hamill also has a new active fan club. It is run by Sally Sparkman, who also handles his fan mail and autograph requests. The address is: The Mark Hamill International Fan Club, P. O. Box 1051, Santa Monica, CA 90406.

Steve Sansweet, SW collector and author, has been given the job of "Star Wars Ambassador" by George Lucas. Steve will be leaving his post as bureau chief for the *Wall Street Journal*, for what he describes as a "dream job." He will be attending as many SF cons as possible providing information on all of Lucasfilm's SW and Indiana Jones plans, including the re-release of SW in 1997, the multimedia release of *Shadows of the Empire*, and the

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upcoming new Trilogy.

Due to the unending popularity of the NPR SW and TESB radio dramas, the third movie, ROTJ, is at last being produced as a radio drama. At this time, none of the original ROTJ cast will be lending their voices to do their roles.

George Lucas was on the cover of the March 1996 *Forbes* magazine, with an interesting article about Lucas and his own empire inside.

Artist Dave Dorman has been commissioned to create a series of portraits of the SW universe's most popular characters. The first portrait, Obi-Wan Kenobi, was due out in March.

#### Old News but fun stuff:

ILM made up a t-shirt for the cast and crew during the filming of ROTJ with their answer to the Ewoks as cute teddy bears: 3 ferocious looking Ewoks, one in a hang glider carrying a missile, one about to depress the plunger on a dynamite detonator, and the third pointing a machine gun at the viewer. Caption reads: "DAMN RIGHT WE'RE CUTE!"

A t-shirt that Lucasfilm made up for the cast and crew of ROTJ: Yoda with his ears standing straight up, his eyes crossed and his body encased in a strait-jacket, saying, "Hold up well under pressure I do."

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## A Personal Statement

by Nora Mayers

Cheree has graciously allowed me to venture outside the SW universe to offer a brief tribute to the gracious gentleman whose praises I've been singing for the past two issues. Eugene Curran Kelly (better known to his fans as Gene Kelly) passed out of our lives on February 2, 1996, and we are made poorer. This Irish-American original, with the unbeatable Technicolor smile, brought such happiness and joy to so many for so many years that anything I write will inevitably seem inadequate. How does one write an obituary for a man who made beautiful music (and dance!) with a cartoon mouse, and who did it so wonderfully that we believed it might just be real? He splashed through a rain storm and made the whole world's spirits soar. He danced through the streets of Paris and into the paintings of Van Gogh, Renoir, and Lautrec, transporting us with him, and making us believe in the spell he wove with his unique form of dance and his mischievous charm.

Gene was an original who invented an American dance style culled from tap, modern dance, ballet and gymnastics (usually all in one routine). As a reviewer for *The Washington Post* put it: "His joyful, brawny and exuberant choreography spoke of ballet and the athletic field, yet made him seem like Everyman." He danced like a hurricane, and unlike so many male dancers before and since, did it with such powerful masculinity and electric sensuality that, in the

style he created, he has never been equaled. Mikhail Barishnikov said, "We don't have dancers like Gene Kelly anymore." We don't have many people like him at *all* anymore. He was generous of heart and spirit, powerfully masculine without having to push to prove it, uniquely gifted as a dancer, choreographer, actor, smokey-voiced singer, and director. Creative genius, technical innovator, brilliant teacher. He was all of these things and so many more.

Mr. Kelly died at the age of 83, but no matter how old he became, he was young. Until the series of strokes that eventually claimed him, he remained creative ("Cats Don't Dance", with choreography by Mr. Kelly, will be in theaters this summer). He remarried at age 78 to a young woman who loved him deeply and he continued to exhaust those around him with his indefatigable energy. Despite complications from the strokes, he died in his sleep with his wife sitting beside his bed. Thank God for his peaceful passing.

I am deeply grieved but it is impossible to mourn while watching him sing and dance in the rain. I find myself smiling — even laughing — at his exuberance and abundant charm. Thank you, Mr. Kelly, for all you've left behind. Much love to you, sir, and more appreciation than I can adequately express.



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## Special News Release for those on the GENie Information Network

*The following news release was sent to me by Martha Wells and should be of interest to anyone who is a subscriber to GENie.*

### **GENie Owners Default On Payments; Shutdown Feared**

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND, U.S.A., 1996 JUN 28 (NB) -- Yovelle Renaissance Corporation has defaulted on its payments to General Electric Information Services (GEIS) for its purchase of Genie, GEIS has taken steps to block Yovelle's collection of credit card charges, and concern is mounting that the online service could shut down within weeks.

Yovelle Renaissance Corporation purchased Genie from GEIS in January of this year, agreeing to an undisclosed series of payments to purchase the online service from GEIS. The first payment was made but no payments have been made since.

Yovelle Renaissance's owners have attempted to renegotiate the sale with GEIS without success, arguing that they shouldn't pay the full price since subscriber numbers have dropped since the sale. One insider pegs the current subscriber numbers at 10,000 - 15,000.

GEIS, in turn, has taken steps to block Yovelle's receipt of credit card payments, placing an injunction on Yovelle's ability to collect charges through Checkfree, the company with which Yovelle and GEIS had contracted to handle subscriber renewals and payments. The situation makes it difficult for Yovelle to collect any more money from subscribers until this situation is resolved, Newsbytes was told.

Yovelle, meanwhile, has stopped work on Genie Interactive, the planned reincarnation of Genie on the Internet, announced shortly after the purchase of Genie from GEIS, according to two reliable sources inside the company. The placement of Genie on the Web was originally a GEIS project, code-named "The Village," before the company was sold.

Jeff Rochwarger, Genie president, "has been reassigned," according to two sources. He can now be found at IDT, which stands for (Interactive Discount Telecom), Hackensack, NJ, a company which some say had a role in the creation of Yovelle Renaissance when negotiations to purchase Genie were underway. IDT operates Internet and telecom services and has 420 employees, Newsbytes was told.

Rochwarger, and IDT President Howard Jonas, were not

available for comment, but Yovelle attorneys, Lawrence Cohen and Jim Courter spoke to Newsbytes.

"We claim there was a misrepresentation by General Electric to Yovelle," said Cohen, referring to the reason for the nonpayments to GEIS. "A letter was sent by Yovelle to GEIS setting forth their allegations."

He added, "This is nothing more than a legal dispute, not a matter of just not paying the bill."

The attorneys claim there were misrepresentations by GEIS in the number of subscribers to Genie, and in the contract as to the right of GEIS to use Genie in "other world markets."

"Apparently they are, and we dispute it," said Cohen.

Asked what this meant in court, Cohen replied, "This is a relatively new dispute at this moment and we can't comment on what is going to happen in reference to court procedure. We hope we can resolve this thing without litigation."

As for concerns the dispute will force a shutdown of Genie, he said, "We vehemently deny that."

Currently Genie has about 29 employees, down from 49 when Genie was purchased by Yovelle.

Inside Genie, sources say, the situation has invoked fear and concern. Employees are being paid, as are information providers, but as one source told Newsbytes: "It's questionable what the future will hold. Benefits are still being paid. We have had no news in a week. The only information we get is when we demand it. People are all looking for jobs. Morale is at its lowest."

Yovelle may have contributed to the lower subscriber numbers, sources say. The company raised prices "the first day they were in business." The original cost of subscribing to Genie was \$8.95 per month for 4 hours free and hourly charges were extra. The cost was raised with three new pricing plans: \$23.95 per month with 9 free connect hours and additional access at \$2.75 per hour; a \$29.00 plan with unlimited Internet access and no free hours on Genie, all Genie hours costing \$2.75 per hour; and an \$18.95 plan in which 9 hours were free and hourly access after that was \$2.75 per hour.

GEIS manager, public affairs, John Berry told Newsbytes, that the company only has this to say: "GE vehemently denies that there was any misrepresentation in connection with the sale of Genie. We have fully lived up to all our obligations."

(Wendy Woods/19960628) [ISMAP]

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## New Subscription Rates Go Into Effect

The price for *Southern Enclave* — \$7.00 per issue — has remained the same for the past several years. Now, however, due to rising production and postage costs, I have been forced to raise the price by \$1.00 per issue. Beginning with this issue, the new prices will be \$8.00 per issue, \$24.00 for 3 issues, or \$32.00 for four issues. I regret having to take this step, but this has been necessary in order for SE to pay for itself. One person asked me if I couldn't just find a cheaper place to print it. Believe me, I've found one of the lowest cost print shops in Dallas and they give me a volume discount because of the amount of work I bring them. I've got production values cut to bare minimum, figuring that you would rather pay for content than frills. But the Post Office isn't giving me any discount and the print shop has to pay for paper and toner, so there's just so much I can do. I regret raising prices but there it is.

It was great to see so many SEers at MWC this year. You'll find some photos scattered through these pages that give you a feel for who all was there. Just to drop a few names — Kathy Agel, Barbara Anderson, Rose Arnold, Linda Billington, Tim Blaes, Rebecca Carey, Z. P. Florian, Carolyn Golledge, Pat Grant, Sheryl Haven, Carol Hines-Stroede, Debbie Kittle, Wanda Lybarger, Mickey Malkin, Samia Martz, M. J. Mink, Jennifer Moore, Pat Nussman, Barbara Peake, Cheryl Pryor, Arwen Rosenbaum, Sharon Saye, Marti Schuller, Liz Sharpe, Nancy Stasulis, Louise Turner, Mary Urhausen, Ming Wathne, Jeannie Webster, Veronica Wilson, Judy Yuenger, and Sue Zahn. Welcome to Judith Klinger who came over from Germany! There was a real international feel this year with Louise Turner from Scotland and Carolyn Golledge from Australia also there!

If you were there and I didn't see you or include your name on this list, wave at everyone and let me know. You may even see yourself in a photo in this or the next issue. My atrophied brain cells sometime shoot blanks when I try to remember things that are more than a week in the past.

Thanks to the Dead Bothans for the great "Scum and Villainy" doll display. Wish I could show you the photos of Darth in bed with two (!) blondes but the photos came out too dark to print!

The Star Awards were exciting and congratulations to all the winners. A special congrats to Judy on her Special Achievement Award. And my deepest thanks to you all for bestowing the Lifetime Achievement Award on me! I was totally surprised and grateful!

We are all settled into our new home now, although we are still looking for some things and there are still boxes in the garage that haven't been unpacked. We have no curtains up yet (there are miniblinds) but I'm getting an idea of what I want and will buy them when I have the money. We love our new place. It's located in a small town and we are way out just barely in the city limits so we're pretty much in the country. It's peaceful and quiet, we have great neighbors, and the whole pace of life is a lot slower there. Still, it's only 20 miles from Dallas so the commute to work isn't bad.

I'm running a few photos of the new house on the next few pages, as requested. These were taken about two weeks after we moved in, so there's no grass in the yard and boxes everywhere inside. It looks a lot better now.

If you're ever in the area, give me a call!

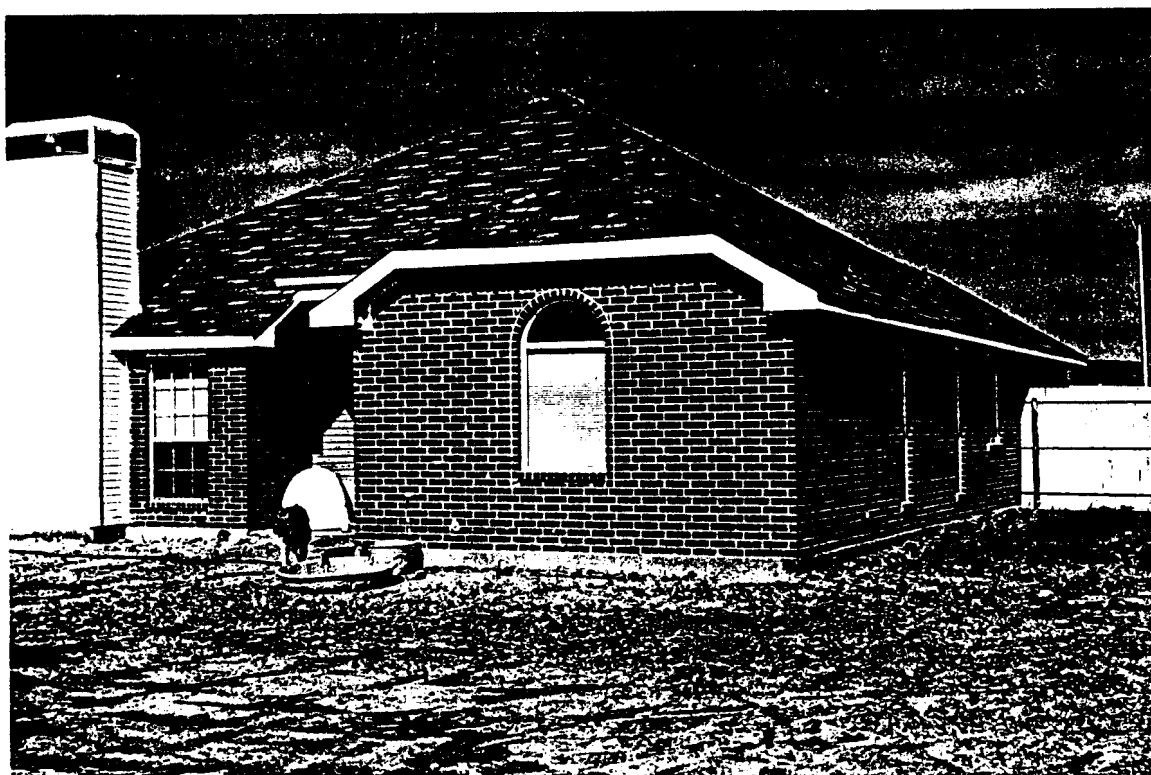
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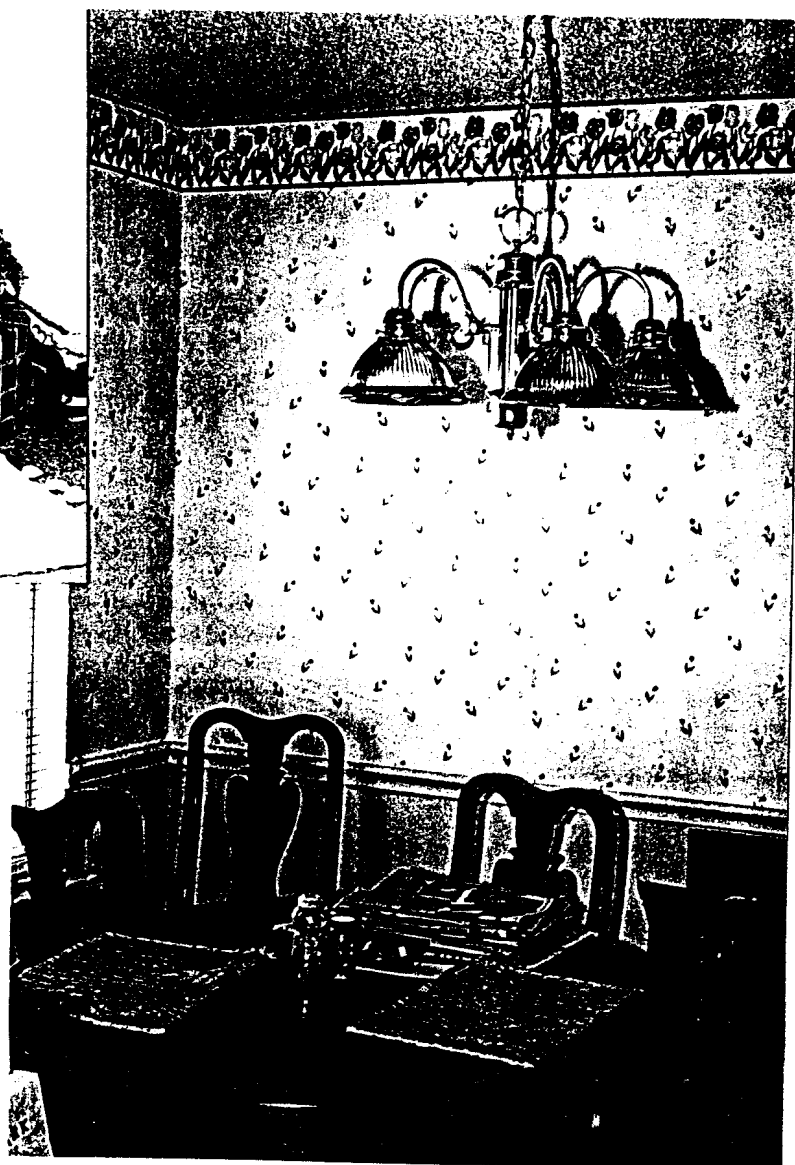
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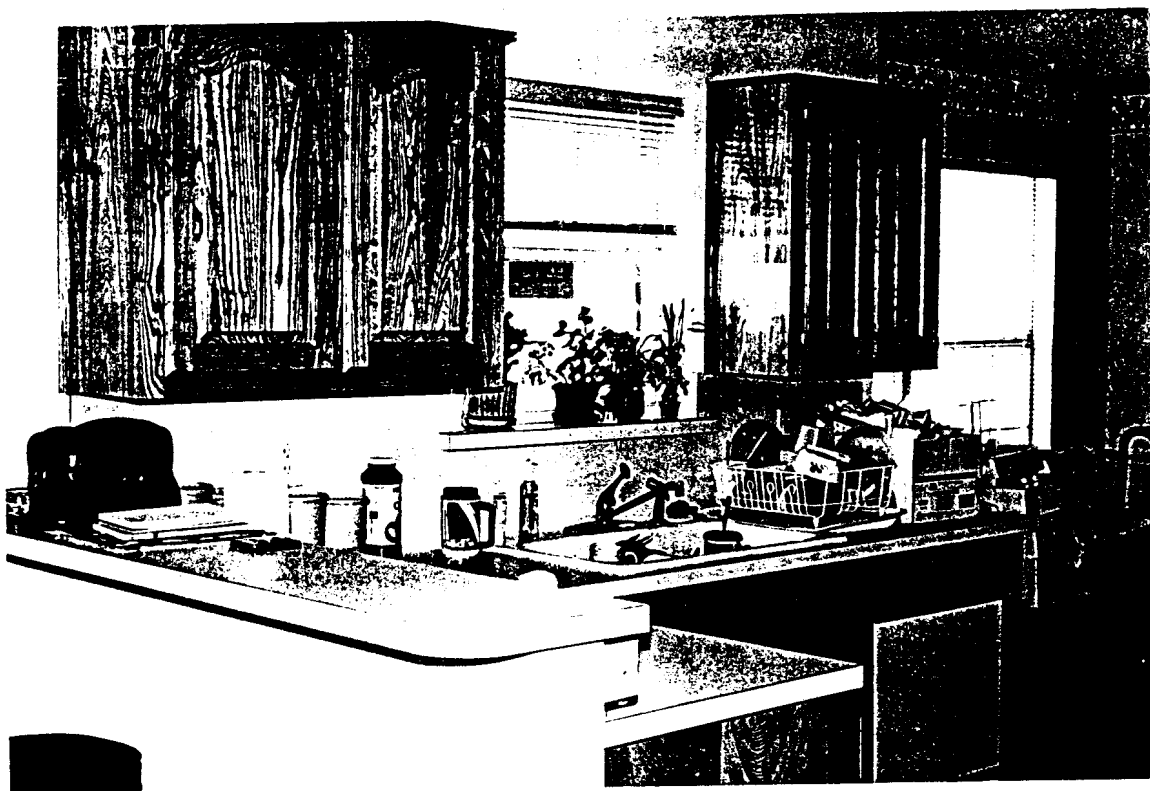
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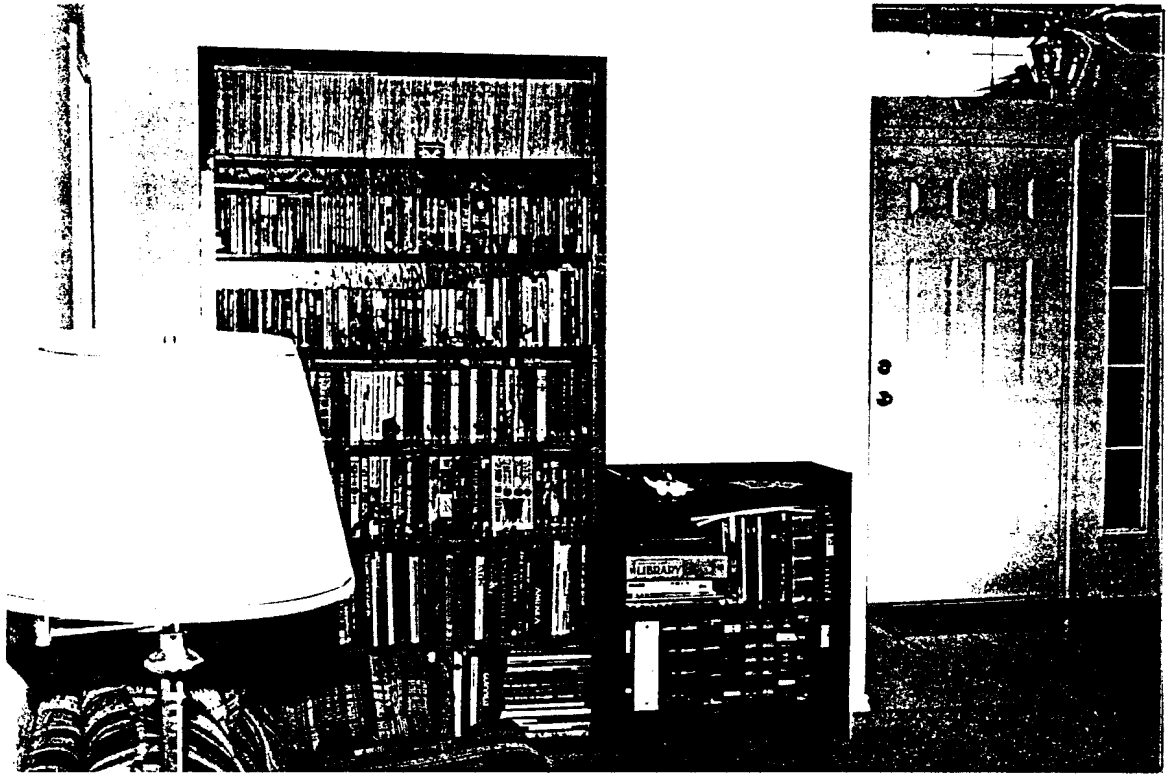
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## Some Scenes and Faces from MediaWest\*Con XVI

**May 24-27, 1996**  
**Lansing, Michigan**



Debbie Kittle, Marti Schuller,  
Sheryl Haven, Louise Turner and ?

Photo from Debbie Kittle



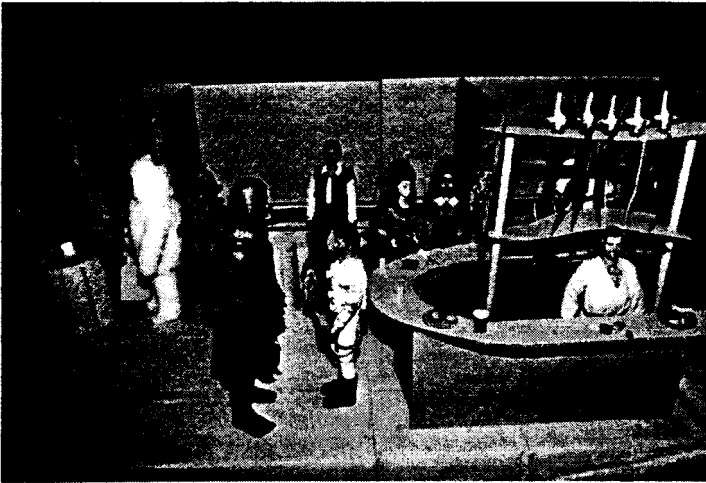
Carolyn Golledge  
admires Captain Solo

Photo by Debbie Kittle



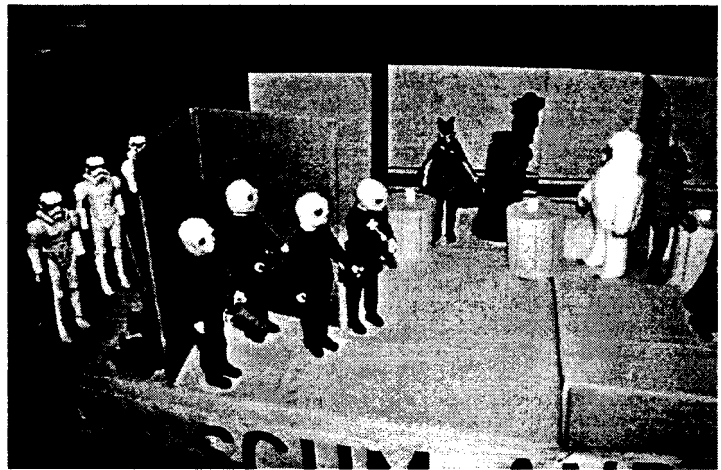
Judy Yuenger, Cheryl Pryor,  
Carolyn Golledge, and Jennifer Moore

Photo by Debbie Kittle



SW Doll Exhibit — the Cantina

Photo by Debbie Kittle



SW Doll Exhibit — the Cantina

Photo by Debbie Kittle



SW Doll Exhibit —  
Jabba's Lair

Photo by Debbie Kittle





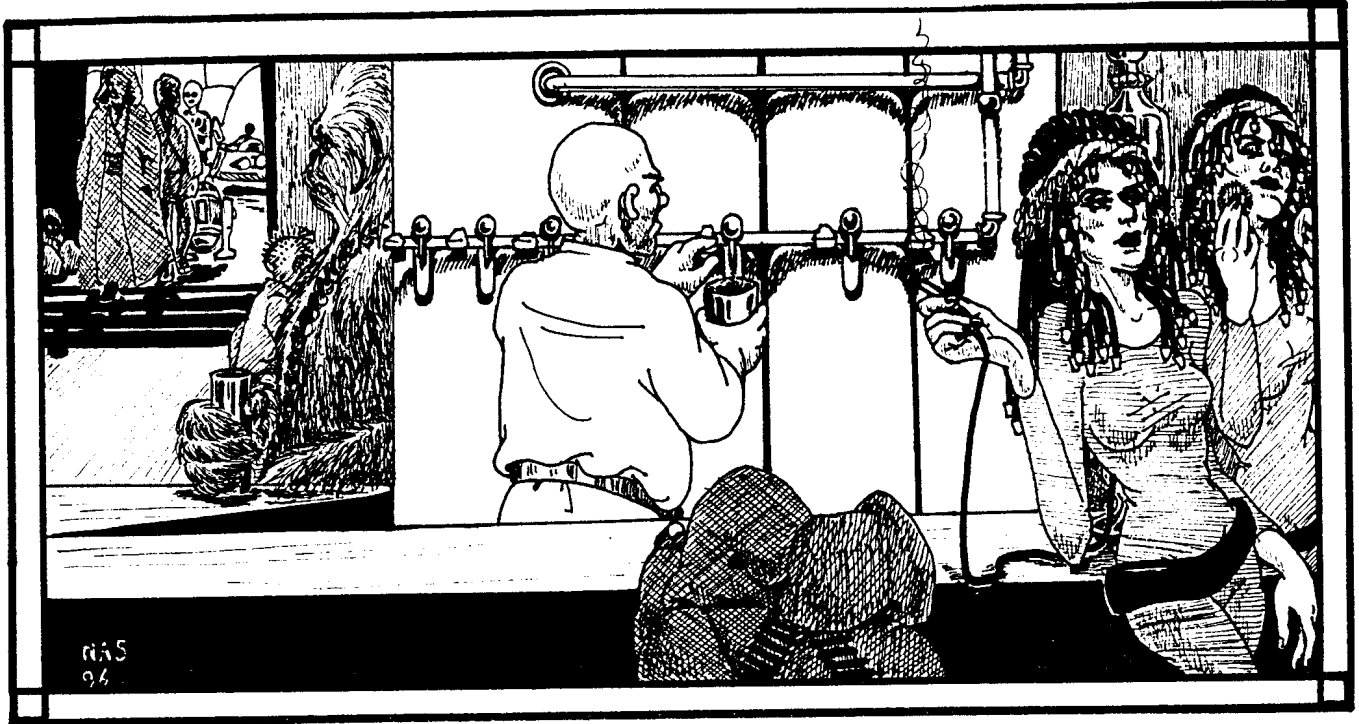
M. J. Mink

Photo by Debbie Kittle



Judy Yuenger's Medal

Photo by Debbie Kittle



## FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW

### ONLY FIFTEEN HANDS HIGH

Nora Mayers  
212 Malcolm Drive  
Centreville, MD 21617

February 2, 1996

Now that the snow has finally melted (though the trauma lingers on — Liz is still chortling that I took two hours to clear my car from the snowbank that had covered it ... only to have the snowplow come by five minutes later to dig everyone else out within seconds!), I think it plausible to blame Debbie Kittle for turning Washington, D.C. into Hoth. And I know she's responsible because she's the only Bothan I know who prays for snow!

Cheree: Congratulations on the new house, and may the You Know What be with you! Glad, too, that you recovered so well and so quickly! I love your idea about the readers' bios for issue 50, btw!

Louise Turner: Nawwww, Liz's horse tops out at only fifteen hands ... not high at all! I personally didn't pick up from the letter in question that denigrating fanfic was the theme. My impression of the letter was that 'zines are a great place for beginning writers, and *also* a great place for established authors. A place for "promising young journeymen", is how I remember the wording, which doesn't strike me as a slam at fans or fanfic — quite the contrary. However, I agree that a lot of what appears in fan fiction would never be accepted by pro publishing

houses. Sometimes, sadly, that is because the writer's skills still need work. And how lovely that fandom is there to help these "*promising young journeymen*" polish their craft. No one ever stops learning to write — neither the fan writer nor the established pro. It's great that we fanfic writers have a place to practice, have our work appreciated and critiqued. Consequently, a whole lot of fan writing is really superb. Fandom *is* a place for promising young journeymen, and hallelujah for it! Re: *The Adventure Journal*: WEG doesn't want fans using the original characters because they are trying to populate the SW universe with new and different characters that will appeal to their roleplayers. Gotta look at the reason they're in print. I didn't know two people played Wedge! Wow! Shows you how observant I am!!!

Laura Virgil: GOTTA DANCE! (The sound of happy tapping feet) [And thank you, Cheree, for getting us together via modem where, incidentally, we have been happily and deliriously Kelly obsessing. Look for a Gene door at Media West in '97]. Where was I when SW debuted? Standing in a very long movie line, complaining that I'd never stood in *any* movie line for *any* reason, and I didn't understand why my sister *insisted* we stand in line for this one!

Z.P.: I'm afraid that Lucas is going to concentrate on the FX too, rather than the story line. Hmm ... maybe he should go back and see *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*, just to remind himself what happens when you choose that route. But we'll see ... hopefully we'll all be happily surprised and very happy with the results. Palpatine as

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Luke's mom, huh? Well, as long as she doesn't turn out to be an Ewok ... but then, Luke *is* kinda short, isn't he? Hmmmm...

Maggie: HOORAAAYY For Susan!!!!!! Yowza!!!

John Fredericks: Blush. Actually I did make up the scourge names, but it was all in jest! Re: sad but beautiful linking up with dark and nasty: Opposites attract!

Later!

## STICK TO EMBROIDERY?

Z. P. Florian  
6214 Waterway  
Falls Church, VA 22044

January 29, 1996

Taero: Now that would be an interesting idea, assuming that Vader knew all along that Luke lived on Tatooine, and he lost him only when Luke joined the Alliance and started to fly all over the Galaxy. This would fit with your theory of a misunderstood Anakin, accused of every conceivable sin and finally deciding that since they hate him anyways, he might as well give them reasons for it. And yes, I agree, calling Leia's child Anakin is something only a pro novel can do...

Mink: Humbly letting you know that the story about little Luke shopping with Beru is mine... The title is "Like Any Other Boy" and it was published in *Hibernation Sickness* 16. Re: if I ever sleep? I average about six hours daily, but why don't you ask if I ever vacuum the carpets, sweep the floor, wash windows, shine doorknobs, iron blouses or wash the car? Those are the things I gave up for SW... (Big fat sacrifice!)

Virgil: Welcome back, and go read the Hambly book. If I say it's all right, you can believe it, because I really, really don't like the pro novels. Harrison Ford is innocent. He did not invent anything in ROTJ, he did not make the silly Han. Actually he was begging Lucas to kill Han in the last movie. He said: Han has no mommy, no daddy, no place to go, let him die. I don't remember where I have seen this, but I will never forget the words. About Luke living alone — all I can say is that when I write Luke chaste and unmarried, I feel an immense sadness, and when I write him having children, I am happy. Naturally, that only means that I am not made to live alone. I think if I didn't have the love of my life, two children, two cats, a dog and a goldfish, I'd go out into the world to look for someone who needs me, roll up my sleeves and work on building a relationship. I don't understand women so desperately lonely that they would hook up with a man who kills their cats. That's not a need for love, that's a

need for someone who dominates them. There must be enough decent beings around, perhaps not all of them attractive or rich, but good-natured and in need of a caring partner.

Mayers and all who asked: I did send a story to West End. Actually, two stories, one was a straightforward, rather simple adventure, the other, using the same characters, was a proposal for a long and elaborate game version, complete with character stats and other stuff suitable for gaming. For some six months, I got not a word. Then I got really tired of waiting and sent them a multiple-choice questionnaire, something like: we hated it, we loved it, try again, stick to embroidery. The questionnaire came back with a handwritten answer on it, saying that they couldn't decide whether the material was more suited to a story or a game, and I should try again. At this point, I can't decide whether I am more suited to try again or just sit back and enjoy the fandom.

Karkoska: Banthas. A layer of thick fur helps preserve moisture on the skin, prevents sunburn... As to why they are so big, of course they have a so-called water-stomach, a large bladder-like inner organ, that can store enough water to keep a Bantha going for weeks. What do they eat? Why, it's obvious! Failed smugglers — Jabba said so! Thanks for liking "Windchimes" — and Luke's two dozen boys. I love them as my own kids and I love the way Luke loves them. I am not working on another sequel, but perhaps I will, because there is still a lot of potential there.

Nowakowska: Although I had already let you know, I want to do it again in a LoC: I am deliriously happy to hear that Susan Matthews' Andrej books will be in the stores. For SW fans who don't know, they are painfully beautiful, involving, disturbing books, that can become addictive in seconds.

Pryor: Hey, I knew that Han in the honeymoon hut was a takeoff on the Lybarger cartoon, which was a takeoff on *Frantic*. And I am positively whimpering with anticipation, knowing that in the doll show I will see Vader's boudoir. You dare to show polkadot underwear lying around, you're Sarlacc food!

Fredericks: A Lobot story? Hmm, that guy was totally ignored so far, I think. Go ahead and write it! Talk is cheap! Work! Tell us, what happened on Bespin after Lando left them knee-deep in Imperials!

Frayser: No one can misspend years as a journalist. Journalists are the people who know nothing about everything, and that qualifies them to write about alien planets and nonexistent cultures. As for fandom being a breeding ground for hatred — perhaps, but it is also a breeding ground for friendship, love and mutual admiration. At MWC, every year, we meet as if we had never parted. As if Lansing were suspended in time, we meet and hug and continue the conversations left off a year

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earlier. I don't want to say that there are no arguments and that everybody likes everybody equally, but I think we have arrived to a level of maturity, where we don't feel that anyone who thinks Vader was not a functional male should be burned at stake, or anyone who questions Leia's virginity should be shot, or the sky will fall down if someone says Kenobi was a liar. I think we all learned to enjoy the different interpretations, and if we really, really feel that someone wrote something truly intolerable, we just up and write a counter-story to balance the Universe.

## YE OLDE SOAPBOX

Veronica Wilson  
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New Brunswick, NJ 09801

I bet you thought I'd died or gafiated or something, but the truth's a lot more pedestrian: I got really busy and simply didn't have the time to read SE thoroughly or respond. But issue #43 made me feel compelled to dust off Ye Olde Soapbox and rejoin the fray. (Now don't you feel excited? :) ) Since I'm still pressed for time (you were right, Louise, the dissertation looms!), I am going to give my general thoughts on topics most of you were discussing last issue instead of addressing comments individually. We'll see if this works...

The whole Kenobi issue is very loaded, and our reactions to him can hinge upon whether we believe that in times of intense pressure and danger, sometimes the ends justify the means. But I think it is a mistake to judge the Knighthood as a whole by what we know of Kenobi and Yoda. Having said that, I will come to the issue of the Jedi Order a bit later. As for Kenobi, when he said, "I thought I could train Anakin just as well as Yoda taught me," he may *not* have meant that he wanted to train Anakin "just like" Yoda would have done, but "as well as", which does not literally mean the same thing. Kenobi might have thought that he understood Anakin better than Yoda would have, and that Anakin should not be trained in the same way Yoda did Kenobi. Perhaps Ben is so contrite about the whole issue not only because he failed and Anakin fell, but also because he directly defied what he knew Yoda's opinions on the matter would be. Remember, Kenobi says harsher things about Vader than Yoda does. Yes, this is from guilty conscience, but it could also be that Kenobi was deliberately harsher (or easier) on Anakin (sensing his propensity for Darkness) than Yoda would have been, and that this backfired, creating self-fulfilling prophecy. Please realize, folks, I am only speculating and don't know what I believe about the whole issue. My opinions change

depending on the day and my mood. :)

As for why Ben waits 3 years before telling Luke to go to Dagobah, there could be several reasons for this. (1) Perhaps it suddenly seems more imperative that Luke have full training right away once Kenobi realizes Vader is obsessed with finding him, and Luke may be in more danger now than previously. (2) Maybe Kenobi only recently came to terms with his responsibility for Anakin's fall, and only recently reconciled himself to having Yoda train Luke. Might not Kenobi have hoped Luke would find another surviving Jedi to train beneath? As both a student and a teacher in my own right, I have learned (sometimes painfully) that one meets and learns from instructors one respects and owes a great deal to, yet would choose an alternate means of teaching the same material. If there are dozens of ways to present the events of the Civil War and to give them different interpretations, just think of the myriad ways there are to teach and explain the Force! My point is that Obi-Wan could have respected and revered Yoda and still wished Yoda would see some things differently.

This is not to say that, if this is true, Ben is right and Yoda wrong, just merely that mentor and student are seldom carbon copies of one another. But Ben does not now have the luxury of having an array of Jedi instructors from which he can choose to train Luke. Yoda, to his knowledge, is the only (or perhaps the only qualified) Force-user living.

(3) We keep talking about how secluded or secret Dagobah was. Might sending Luke to Yoda also have been a way of keeping him safe from Vader now that the Dark Lord was combing the galaxy for him? Yoda's skills may have been only part of the reason Ben told Luke to go to Dagobah. It seems unlikely that Luke would have gone had Ben said, "Luke, you must go to Dagobah so that you'll stay out of harm's way. You can't face Vader and complicate things worse than they already are, for reasons I can't explain to you now. Oh, and by the way, take everything Yoda says with a major grain of salt. He trained me, but we don't always see eye-to-eye. Nevertheless, you must part ways with all your friends now."

I think it highly problematic to take the prologue of the ANH novelization at face value. After all, it is from the Journal of the Whills, which in the SW galaxy is written many years after the events of the film. The SW galaxy has turned our heroes into history and myth at that point, so the galaxy's peoples have a romantic slant in regard to the tales of Leia, Han, Luke, the end of the Empire, etc. This is under the New Republic, one presumes, and thus is akin to American myths of the Founding Fathers, myths which rarely discuss the shortcomings of our own republic's founders. Even many scholarly histories of the American

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colonial/revolutionary period are overly kind to Washington, Jefferson, etc., choosing to mention their faults to make them seem more human, but at the same time mentioning these flaws only briefly in order to emphasize the founders' heroism. The presumption behind this is that cultures need myths to live by, stories to give as moral examples to children, ways to instill patriotism and a sense of one's own society's basic goodness. This is probably the case with the Journal of the Whills. These sorts of writings would be vitally important to the New Republic, which would have to invent a rich mythology that would appeal to many diverse peoples.

This leads us to the topic of Kenobi/the Jedi Order/the Old Republic. When the Journal of the Whills mentions that the Jedi were the heroic guardians of peace and justice, and when Kenobi echoes this, that doesn't mean that the Journal's words are wholly true or false. The truth usually lies somewhere in between. Jedi could have been very noble and heroic, peace-loving and selfless for generations and then have declined. If that were the case, they would have mythologized history as a shining example to justify upholding tradition and turning a blind eye to current folly or the present need for change. No institution can survive unchanged for centuries and hope to remain relevant or escape becoming the Establishment, with all the corruption that entails. Just one example (and no, I am not picking on anyone here) is the way many early, small, often beleaguered Christian denominations started out heroically brave and self-sacrificing, only to become moribund and fabulously wealthy and powerful centuries later, often agents of oppression rather than of spiritual liberation. Does that mean that the message of Christianity is all wrong or oppressive? Not by any means. Messages are not institutions. Similarly, the United States is genuinely based on the ideas of freedom and equality for all. It is in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution; we fought a civil war over what these words mean; we still base political campaigns and overseas ventures on these supposedly democratic premises. When looking at it this way, no one can deny what we strive (or at least pretend) to be. However, these words ring hollow and hypocritical to Americans who suffer poverty and injustice the government cannot or does not alleviate, as well as to people in other countries who are harmed by our military/economic power over their decisions. To them, we are not democratic, but imperialistic at worst and contradictory at best.

Perhaps this was the case with the Knighthood. They did not have to be consciously hypocritical or ill-intentioned to make some citizens feel betrayed or to make some Force-users feel oppressed, or to prevent the populace from fearing potential abuses of their powers. From this it is an easy step to call for reforms and

restrictions. If the Jedi Order chose not to heed such warning signs, then Palpatine and others could certainly have taken advantage of the growing alienation and fear, perhaps even genuinely sharing those concerns. We have no idea how the Jedi, when in power, treated Dark Siders, as we have discussed. There may have been some injustices there as well. Dark Siders prevented from practicing their beliefs freely could have cried that freedom of religion and association and speech, etc., was hardly honored in the Republic. Yet to the Jedi, just as to anti-Communists here in the States during the Cold War, it seemed necessary to limit the influence of "dangerous" individuals for the greater good of the galaxy as a whole. The same tensions would rend the Empire, in reverse order, and then appear again under the New Republic.

This is not Jedi-bashing. It is instead an attempt to reconcile how the Fall of the Republic might have occurred and how the Purge of the Jedi might have been explained and tolerated. This does not mean Kenobi lied about these events and the Jedi's possible roles in them, merely that he told Luke the truth as he knew it, unable to comprehend how the well-intentioned Jedi he knew could have caused their own doom or at least seriously frightened other beings in the galaxy. The same goes for the political structure of the Old Republic. Just because it survived for so long does not mean it was sound at the core towards the end. Inner decay could have set in after thousands of years. After all, our government has survived along constitutional lines for two centuries, and yet changed enormously in size and function since that time. (We have the same Constitution, yet far more enfranchised populations and a far vaster bureaucracy than the founders ever anticipated or advocated.) Whether this is for the better or worse is the subject of intense argument even now. But when dialogue breaks down and the use of coercive force breaks out between groups and government or between various groups, we are all in trouble, no matter the source of or reason for the conflict. Republics are founded on the premise of individuals' consent to be governed, and when individuals' perceived needs change, republics must adapt to those desires or die.

This is why the Jedi may or may not be necessary for the successful functioning of the New Republic, which cannot be exactly like the Old, no matter how much the new founders might wish otherwise. Too much happened in the interim, particularly since generations under the Empire were raised in fear and ignorance of the Jedi. The new Jedi, to be successful, also could not be the same as before. At the very least, they would not see the universe in the same ways as their predecessors. Hence, their necessity and proper roles would logically be a great matter of debate for the New Republic.

So, I'll finally put the soapbox away now. This is

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clearly a result of having thought too much about history of late, and having stayed away from SE for too long! :) Take care, everyone.

## PLOT AND CHARACTER

John Fredericks  
5 Bayard Road, Apt. 101  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Good luck on the new house, Cheree. The floor plans were a neat idea. Loved the Kathy Tyers interview. From where did it come? Liked the Lucas interview, though what he says disturbs me. He seems very concerned with the film technology and less with the story. Sure Yoda couldn't walk and we all know he was a puppet. That's not what made the character interesting. Plot and character, George, please. Loved the Dead Bothan picture, but don't Dead Bothans ever smile?

Jacqueline Taero: Liked the idea that Vader may have known about Luke all along, that some part of Anakin (which he kept deeply hidden from Palpie) wanted Luke to grow up and come save him. Though that doesn't explain why the stormtroopers killed Owen and Beru instead of waiting there to ambush Luke, unless Vader gave them instructions to do so hoping to scare Luke off-planet. Maybe my explanation is getting too complicated here. Better move on.

I also agree that Bail is a better name for a kid than Anakin, though perhaps Lucas told them hands-off with Bail because he's not sure what he'll do with the prequels. If I'm remembering correctly, Bail's name isn't in any of the movies so George may decide not to use him.

Laura Virgil: Thanks for your first SW viewing tale. Here's mine: I first saw SW when I was seven or eight. Mom picked me up at my grandmother's and the two of us went to see it at a theater that has now closed. I had to go to the bathroom right before Luke meets Ben and I remember running so I would not miss anything. Here it is almost twenty years later, still afraid I'll miss something. Who woulda thunk it.

Z. P. Florian: Lucas won't really make the prequels. Everything that has to happen seems terribly depressing. Let's be real, he could have had those things out years ago if he was really interested in doing it. We're just getting strung along so LFL can make more bucks. I also ask everyone reading this to pray that I'm wrong. I want to see those new films, no matter how depressing, and I don't care about waiting for special effects. String up a few spaceships with fishing line, but tell me a good story about characters I want to believe in. Thanks for the doll tips,

too.

A. G. Steyn: Thanks for the insight into teachers falsifying history. We get complacent here in the U.S., not believing that stuff can really happen and we need to always be wary of it.

Marlene Karkoska: Sure there were Jedi doctors, politicians, scientists and warriors. I liken it to Catholic brothers and sisters (nuns): they live within a certain set of spiritual rules, but many of them work in the community using their particular talents. Except I like to think the Jedi had the option to marry. Thanks also for your comments about *The Crystal Star*. You were direct but polite, something all too rare these days.

Mary Jo Fox: You're leaving? Sorry to hear that, though I hope to keep in touch outside the pages of SE. You were the first other fan I ever wrote to, and *Blue Harvest* led me to the world of fan fiction and fan writing (for which I am grateful). Good luck with all your endeavors and with pro writing. Talk to you soon.

Matt Whitney: Glad to hear from another bookaholic. I keep my copy of *Fahrenheit 451* within easy reach. Bradbury makes the deft observation that books give you time to reflect on ideas. You can re-read them, ponder them, go back to the text again and again. Media doesn't allow for that sort of patient reflection, and that is to our society's detriment. Some of the kids I teach couldn't think their way out of a paper bag.

Debbie Kittle: Thanks for the doll news.

Louise Turner: I appreciate the fact that you didn't mention which pro author is a real jerk, though a part of me wishes you had, just to be sure I never buy a book of his again (not that most of them make me want to anyway. Accckkk!!)

Good luck with the Wedge zine. I have already begun the outline for the Wedge story I'm going to send you. The time for greater diversity in fanfic has arrived. I'll lay down the gauntlet and say that I would love to read more stories about Chewie, Lando, Ackbar, Kenobi, and Wedge.

I'd love to see the authors who do such a great job of portraying Luke or Han give another character a shot. ((Ed: Oh, John, have I got a zine for you! *A Tremor in the Force* #9 features nearly all of the above!)) I know most do fan writing for fun and personal fulfillment, but I suspect a lot of writers could really grow in their writing by experimenting with characters they have not written before, maybe even characters they don't even like.

Maggie Nowakowska: Agreed, where is the Lando merchandise? Why is he totally neglected in pro-dom and fan fic? He may be flashy and a sweet talker, but you don't engage Star Destroyers at point blank range if you're not strong inside. The pro writers treat him as a fop and, in one story I wrote, I used him as comic relief. Your stories and comments have made me look deeper inside the

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character and I appreciate the insight. ((Ed: On a purely mercenary, commercial aspect, aren't merchandisers overlooking a character that African-American children could relate to? Not only a black man, but a black man portrayed as a hero? You'd think they'd really be going after that market.))

Cheryl Pryor: Liked your comparison of the Force to Zen. Didn't Lucas use Akido as background research for the Jedi? By the way, is your Luke zine still afloat?

John Fredericks: Wait a minute, that's me...

Tim Blaes: Chia Bantha? It could become a subculture like the Cult of the Deck Officer. Oz? Did you say Oz? Next to SW, it was one of my biggest passions of my childhood. Did you read any of the Ruth Thomson Oz stuff? I only own one of her books and have never found any of the others in libraries or stores, though I certainly would like to. I always felt Baum gave the Cowardly Lion too little attention in the books, treating him more as an animal than a viable character. Kinda like Chewie.

Anyone and Everyone: What would Luke and Leia have told the Rebel leaders when they brought Lando back to the Rebel fleet at the end of TESB? Would they have divulged everything about Lando at once, to avoid any skeletons popping up later? Would the Rebel leadership agree that Lando had no choice, or would they be suspicious of his actions? If so, how did he work himself into their good graces ("The Battle of Tanaab", anyone?) Or maybe Luke, Leia and Chewie just kept their mouths shut, figured it was better not to have anyone ask too many questions. After all, most of the Rebels probably came in under strange circumstances. How about it, folks?

Chewie's family should be canon. They are mentioned in *The Essential Guide to Characters* and they give the potential for some nice fanfic about Chewie and the tensions between home and Han. Besides, little Lumpy was just too cute to dismiss. Someone once wrote that he looked like a furrier version of Adam Rich from *Eight is Enough*.

As for comparing SW to Arthur, we can only hope ("only hope", get it?) it lasts as long. Maybe someday some historian will dig up a box of old zines and set off on a quest for Luke's grave, or the Holy Lightsaber.

Anyway, peace to all, even the Deck Officers.

## WORTH THE PRICE

Marti Schuller  
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I am going to try to word part of this LoC in more appropriate tense since it will not be published until after

MWC. We'll see how it works.

First of all, belated congratulations to Randy on his employment with Texas Instruments. I hope it's a long, mutually profitable experience. Secondly, congrats to the Cargill household on your new home. The floor plan looked spacious and comfortable and I hope you're all very happy in your new abode. Hopefully, construction began on schedule and you are now — or soon will be — settled in your new environ. I'm certain Katy will adjust quickly, if she hasn't already.

As for raising the price of SE by one dollar, I'm surprised it's taken this long for the matter to be approached. I, for one, am not averse to an increased price and consider SE well worth the understandably higher rate. I'm sure others will agree.

Now to the letters.

Jacqueline Taero: Re Vader knowing whether he has a son as pertains to Kenobi's passing on of the lightsaber — I will partially agree that by mentioning his father to Luke, Obi-Wan assured the boy's interest, but that's as far as I can follow your position. Admittedly, I am one of the few who seems willing to view Obi-Wan with a forgiving eye, but that is neither here nor there. It's my opinion that Obi-Wan sincerely believed that *Anakin* would want his son to have a lightsaber. Perhaps during his earliest training with Kenobi, he even voiced such a wish for a future son, maybe going so far as to fashion a second lightsaber for that distant day. When Anakin turned to the Dark Side and Obi-Wan discovered Anakin's wife's pregnancy, he may have set the forgotten weapon aside to bestow later, in memory of the man he'd known and lost. Come on, people, give the old guy a break. Haven't we all made mistakes and compounded them later with "good" intentions?

I did find your comparison between SW and *Lord of the Rings* quite interesting. I, too, see Obi-Wan as Bilbo, but only because I can better accept Yoda as a kind of aloof and diminutive Gandalf.

As for why Leia has no offspring named for either of her foster parents in the so-called professional novels, I did find the omission disturbing. But then I absolutely loathe the novels anyway and the above is but one of many points that total a complete disgust for the books. I absolutely agree that Leia would never name a son Anakin, nor do I believe for a fraction of a second that Han would meekly or mutely entertain such an absurd notion.

Of course Luke should "get laid" now and then! My point exactly! I may have made him sterile in *my* galaxy, but not impotent!!

Laura Virgil: It was so good to see your name in the letter index. Though we've never met, I've long been in slack-jawed awe of your artistic talent. In fact, I still own a *Beauty and the Beast* t-shirt you designed that I bought

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at my first MWC. It would be wonderful to see your skills turned to SW once more. Though my purse is all-too-shallow, I would most definitely rejoice at finding your art for sale or auction again. Any chance you'll be appearing in any SW zines in the near future? ((Ed: *Funny you should ask. Laura has allowed me to run three of her older but no less magnificent pieces in the new issue of A Tremor in the Force.*))

By now I'm sure most are familiar with my particular "...when SW opened" story, but to satisfy your curiosity I'll repeat it again. Unlike many, I did not know anything about SW prior to seeing it. Possibly this is explained by the fact that I was already married and the mother of two quite active preschool boys who drained what little energy reserves I had. Anyway, my husband had been hearing about this film from various sources and was curious to see it for himself. Being on vacation at his parents' lake cabin — thus available use of ready babysitters since said parents were also on vacation — and having noticed the film was playing in the nearby small town theater, he convinced me to accompany him. (Not that it took a lot of talking on his part for a housebound mother.) While I enjoyed the film, I cannot say I was instantly swallowed up by this marvelous galaxy. As I recall, my immediate comments afterward went something like "It's just a good western in space." Yet I could not get the film out of my mind and requested we see it again several weeks later on our anniversary outing. That time I was swept away and have been ever since. And, yes, I was drawn to Luke the most right from the start.

Your observations on being single in our society were eloquently expressed and, though I am married and a mother, I applaud your stand and congratulate you on your healthy independent happiness.

Okay, I do understand how Han fans may feel that he was mistreated in ROTJ, but may I offer the following as a *possible* explanation for his transformation? We had already begun to see subtle changes occurring in Han's character anyway and having just undergone what must have been a harrowing, near-death experience (carbon freeze), surely his altered mental state is understandable. They say many people who survive life-threatening ordeals temporarily undergo a kind of reverence for existence afterward. Also, Han seemed to be to be a rather cynical, distrusting man with but one being in his life that he held faith in prior to meeting Luke. Being rescued by Lando, Leia, Chewbacca and Luke — at no small risk to themselves, I might add — must have had a profound effect on the former loner. Yes, his character seemed to swing too far from the original, but I suspect that, like the heart attack victim who savors sunsets for months and then gradually reverts to old ways, Han too would eventually swing back to some new and comfortable middle ground

between the Solo of ANH and the man we see in ROTJ.

As for the less than ardent kiss concluding the near end of the film, a long and lusty kiss would have seemed out of place, given the setting, the crowd and the previous dialogue — at least for me. However, I am certain that passionate kiss and much, much more happened later. :)

Nora Mayers: Congrats on your sale to West End Games. And, the passing of Gene Kelly is a loss for us all. Thank the Force for films, where he will remain forever young.

Z. P. Florian: You and Minky simply must write your turnabout stories! The premise is just too delicious and you two could do it so perfectly. Speaking for Judy without permission, (but certain she'd agree), *Smelly* would love first chance at publishing!

Re your comments to Marlene Karkoska concerning Yoda's comments about Luke completing his training and then later saying he needed no further training. Had you considered that the "training" Yoda was referring to could have been of a more emotional and less physical or even Force-oriented nature? Perhaps Yoda hoped that during the remainder of Luke's education, the old master could prepare the youth for the revelation of his parentage prior to Yoda telling him outright himself. This would explain why, on Luke's return, the training would no longer be necessary. Luke had already learned the truth, resisted the initial shock and temptation and returned to his mentor.

I, too, am a fan of *Forever Knight*. Out of curiosity, have you read any of David Eddings' *Belgariad* series?

Marlene Karkoska: I hope you've fully recovered from your surgery by now and are feeling wonderful.

Let's agree to disagree over Luke's need for a family, okay? Obviously neither of us will change our minds, though I was relieved to see your softened approach to the subject. In *my* galaxy, Luke finds the companionship and comic relief you spoke of through his friends, his sister and Han. Especially Han. I do not read nor do I accept anything from any of the novels as part of my galaxy, but I have no problem with those that do. Personally, I can only write what I believe and feel.

Louise Turner: I hope you made it to MWC and that we met and had fun.

Maggie Nowakowska: Unfortunately, I have little cash to offer, but I *love* the idea for a special 50th issue of SE. Both yours and Cheree's ideas sound good to me. If there's any way I can help, let me know. It was most thoughtful of you to consider this special occasion, Maggie.

John Fredericks: Oh, whoa, please. Speaking from personal experience and as an avid listener, who says family relationships are *ever* "normal"? I think Luke will have his hands full enough as it is. :)

Tim Blaes: You are *not* the only one who rapidly scans



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each SE for your own name among all the LoCs. There are at least two of us. ((Ed: *Why do you think I underline names? Everybody scans for their own names first! I underline names to make it easier to find yourself!*))

P. S. I do the same with zine LoCs. Is this vanity?

Donna Frayser: I'm looking forward to that call. As for getting online being a help ... my kingdom for a computer and the knowledge to use it!

You asked why fandom seems so fertile for feuds. Of course, Cheree's reply was accurate, but I believe it goes further. Fans seem to be, in general, anyway, passionate people with passionate views who — at least in the earliest stages — must learn to share their passions with others whose slant is slightly (or radically) different from their own. But I firmly believe that tolerance can be learned and that fandom is vastly richer when it is.

To everyone I missed: I hope I saw most of you in Lansing and that we had that usual sleepless, wonderful time. May your summer be warm but not too hot, leisurely but not lazy, and carefree but not careless. Peace to all.

## PLANETARY NEWS

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February 8, 1996

Hi there!

First the Galactic News:

Planet Corellia: Harrison's new movie arrived in Germany in late January — and vanished as quickly as virginity in a Mos Eisley bordello, as seemingly few people went to see it. Highly unusual for a Ford picture. The Filmbewertungsstelle Wiesbaden (a state institution that previews movies, gives them their ratings and speaks out special recommendations pro or contra the feature) has given *Sabrina* the highest recommendation possible, the addendum: "Besonders wertvoll" (extremely valuable/precious). Maybe that was a turnoff to a lot of folks, who assume that a movie with that particular rating is either too intellectual or otherwise boring. I, of course, saw *Sabrina* and it was entertaining enough, tho' I would have preferred a bit more Harrison and a little less Julia O. Now I read that HF has a whole bunch of future projects all lined up (no word on the new Indy yet, tho' he supposedly has the scripts on his desk for evaluation, after Lucas and Spielberg already gave it their ok's). Have you folks seen HF wearing a Thomas Magnum moustache? Looks kinda

cute, but the poor guy is skinny these days. Melissa, quit demanding so much of your hubby. He's burning his calories faster than he can gain 'em.

Planet Tatooine: Mark was on *Jay Leno's Tonight Show* on February 6th, "helping" Jay deliver his "Eerie Similarities". The kid wasn't interviewed, tho' — to my utter dismay.

Harrison fared better in that department when he came to promote *Sabrina* in late December and answered funny questions from the audience ("Which one of your movie partners was the best kisser?" Answer: "Chewbacca!")

Planet Hollywood: The Lucasfilm zine, issue of December 1995, stated that two big cons were planned for 1996. One (general SF con) over at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL during mid-January (! Now, isn't *that* good planning... giving notice barely one month ahead of the event). And another one (all SW, and supposedly the *ultimate* SW con) at the "end of the year" in Anaheim, CA. Neat. And so precise. What is the "end of the year"? December? November? Earlier than that? Around Labor Day??? When do they give us the final dates?

They promised "we'll keep you posted". Ha! Like when? It will be very helpful for all non-US/Canadian residents to read in September that the con will be held in mid-October.

I have faxed to the Disneyland hotel (where I suspect the con to take place), but haven't heard anything from them yet. I would yell "shit" if I weren't educated so well.

Now the LoCs:

Jacqueline Taero: I, too have trouble with Leia naming her child Anakin (why??). And especially one should think that the father of the child would have his own p.o.v. on that subject. I simply cannot see Han calling his son Anakin. Han, Jr., yes. Luke, maybe. But Anakin?

Leia's indifference to Alderaan's demise and Bail Organa's death? Hm, difficult. About a year or so ago I watched a TV special on a lady (Erdmute von Zitzewitz) returning for the very first time since the end of WW II to East Prussia (since 1945 part of Russia) to visit the remains of her former home, Gut Weedern, once the largest privately owned horse farm in all of Germany. At the sight of the completely run-down, partially destroyed buildings and overgrown, weedy yard and pastures her face turned to stone. She just stood, tight-lipped, pale, but with a regal stance of inner pride and strength. No tears, no visible emotions. Others would have been overwhelmed with emotional pain, but her upbringing in the traditional "Prussian" way (spartan, almost military in its valuation of pride, duty and self-discipline) did not allow her to give in to her feelings. Therefore, I can only assume that Leia had somewhat of the same upbringing, constantly being told from day 1 on that "first comes Alderaan/the state/the cause ... and you and your own wishes are always dead

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last." But then, maybe she really didn't like Bail Organa?! Only George can clear that up.

Can Luke get ... every once in a while? He could, and we fanfic writers are willing to let it happen (most, anyway), but again, the mastermind behind the madness (GL) wants a monk. So the Skywalker kid remains as untouched as a rabid Rancor. It's not my fault ...

Minky: I am coming to Portland? Are you sure that that is what you wish? Be careful.

Han certainly had surgery at Jabba's, tho' it wasn't exactly a frontal lobotomy. From his actions after the escape from Jabba's barge, I must assume that the part of his anatomy that fell victim to Jabba's knife were his brass b...

On realistic or symbolic standpoint: ok, if Tatooine is the Midwest, then what are all the other places? Alderaan = New England? Hoth = Alaska? Dagobah = Florida? Corellia = Texas? Coruscant = Washington D.C.?

Laura Virgil: Three cheers for the bit on "single = lonely". Couldn't agree more.

Z. P.: The "eleveneses" that planet Hungaria refers to as "ten o'clockers" are called "early piece" (Frühstück) on my ole mothball planet. I'm afraid, tho' that using this term will cause a lot of puzzled faces and scalpscratching amongst my dear readers, so I have to invent something else ("Where's Han?" Lando asked. Luke shrugged: "Went to have an early piece with Leia!")

Wait a second, honey. 1996 is the year of "scum and villiany" at MWC. And 1997 is the year of the "good guys"?! OK, then Han's cabin belongs in the 1996 exhibit, along with Darthie's boudoir, Jabba's commode and Palpie's waterbed.

The kiss between Luke and Leia... Lucas let that slide, because this "incest" both siblings were unaware of their relationship at that point. Since neither one suspected to be related to the other, the kiss was acceptable. Also, this kiss in sick bay was a rather spontaneous reaction to make Han jealous. There was no lust involved (on Leia's side; Luke may have experienced this a little different).

Marlene Karkoska: Ha! Finally another soul who is as puzzled as this ole warrior here about the strange zoology on the SW planets. With their build and hirsute bodies banthas (who bear somewhat of a resemblance to wooly haired mammoths) definitely belong on cool or rather, cold worlds, such as Hoth. On the other hand, Tauntauns, with their not exactly dense fur, thin-rimmed nostrils, almost bare muzzle, thin ears, lofty stance (on two legs, far above the ground) plus long tail look like perfectly adapted to desert life but not to constant sub-zero temperatures. But then: we also see the space-slug and Mynocks living on airless asteroids. Bear with him: George is a movie producer, not a zoologist.

About Kenobi's sacrifice: the usual thing. Ole Ben

taking the easy way out is all. And that smug little smile? He probably was already relishing the thought of leaving father and son to discover some alarming facts of life all by their lonesome. (*Is anyone actually taking me serious here?*)

Debbie Kittle: I hope that by now you've had enough winter to last you for the next 12 months to come. We here have a bit of snow every once in a while, but temperatures are constantly in the cellar with brutal winds out of the east. I've had it with that forsaken cold. Let's have a large helping of springtime here, folks!

Yeah, good old Lando drives me bonkers too with his Haan vs. Han bit. Make up your mind, Calrissian! But it's not just him, others are just as bad. Leia and even Luke can't decide on what they want to call the king of the spacers, either. Since Han introduced himself to Ben and Luke pronouncing his name Haan, I tend to believe that that is the correct way of saying it. Maybe Lando speaks a peculiar dialect. Or maybe he has trouble with Corellian names. And remember: Leia says: "General Ry-kian says..." Uh, Leia ... the man's name is Rieekan, and I would pronounce that "Ry-eekan".

Louise Turner: Can we be sure that the Empire is racist, because all we see (or rather, have been shown yet) is ships full of male, white, middle-aged, human and well educated personnel? Now, it is rather odd, I do admit, that there are only white and no young (or very old) men aboard the vessels (at least not in those parts we constantly see, like the bridge). But why do we see no women? OK, here is my (questionable) thesis:

Mixed male/female crews together on one ship would probably cause too much trouble:

(a) there would be considerable detracton from necessary duties by lusty men ogling the she-folks and vice versa.

(b) men and women, equal as they are, still have different ways of approaching problems mentally. Men think different than do women. Have you ever attended an important meeting where men and women tried together to find a solution to a pending problem? A three ring circus. They mean the same thing, but often seem at cross-purposes while arguing the matter. Besides: as we all know, the average male ego does not take criticism or orders given by or in the presence of women all too well. (*Except, of course, our fellow LoCers of S.E. — Had to add that before the boys declare war on me*).

(c) All ships would need additional medical and hygiene facilities.

And what about other species? I think I did tackle that one already in one of my earlier LoCs, so I only quote Han (aboard the *Tydirium*): "I don't think the Empire had Wookiees in mind when they built her, Chewie!" Imagine Wookiees, Ewoks, Mon Calamari, et cetera, all aboard a

standardized ship. They would either all have to bring their own ships (like the Mon Calamari) into the battle or face major difficulties trying to adapt to the average Imperial ships.

Therefore, it may be possible that there are Imperial battle units that are entirely female or non-human. Not likely, but possible. (*How come I sound like I'm trying to sanction the actions of the Empire? Hey, it's not my fault. There is a Dark Lord using old Jedi mind tricks on me.*)

Uh, since we're already discussing the Empire ... how come that — with rare exceptions — the men aboard the Imperial vessels all lack in the “looks” department? Doesn't Uncle Palpie have at least one drop-dead gorgeous hunk of male flesh in his entire fleet? (Not since Han left the ranks, huh?!) And why does pro-fiction have it that Boba Fett is ugly as sin? Actually, Jeremy Bulloch is anything but, and I do not see why the antagonist of any story needs to be either horrible looking, bad-mannered, ill-kempt or uneducated.

Someone please stop me before I actually salute the Imperial flag and sign the next war bond to finance the crushing of the rebellion ...

**Maggie Nowakowska:** ... and Cheree: whatever you gals got in mind for the 50th issue of S.E. — count me in. Bios/photos, money — I'll donate anything (except Han Solo's erotic diary that he left on my nightstand earlier this week; but you wouldn't be interested in that one anyway. Right?)

Hey, what a great idea about the Jedi siding with non-Humans... Never thought about that before, but this makes a lot of sense (to me and my twisted mind, certainly not to GL and cohorts).

**Tim Blaes:** A Wookiee in a microwave? It can happen — but only in Texas (or Corellia), where everything is always a bit bigger ...

I recently bought the mentioned pieces of pro-lit, too (yes, I'm a masochist lately) and again do not know whether to say “amen” or unleash the Rancor. The more pro explanations of the SW galaxy I read, the more questions pop up in my sick mind. Seems it has the opposite effect on me than that intended by the writers.

**The Essential (whatever that is) Guide to Characters:** My first grudge is of course that it includes all those “original” characters from the dreaded pro books, most of whom I find as interesting as the growth rate of common moss. And I heartily agree with you on the matter of Mangel's having inserted his own material. My second peeve is that someone out there in pro-land is a bit less than imaginative when it comes to stating a being's height. Is it just me, or has it occurred to anyone else that — with rare exceptions (3PO, Luke), body height is given in plain, roundabout numbers ... preferrably 1.7 meters? Without wanting to sound nitpicky, but a lot of male characters in

the SW movies do look taller than Luke. And if Luke is 1.72 meters (5 ft. 8 in.), then I must question the heights given for all the others. But maybe someone is colporting from German movie magazines, where Harrison Ford's height is usually given as being 1.75 m (5 ft. 9 in.) instead of 1.84 m (6 ft. 1 in.).

Another book that I like a lot better but still not as much as I wish I would is *The Illustrated SW Universe*. It looks terrific, and the authors/artists have mostly been quite imaginative. However, here we encounter again a galaxy full of planets and moons that have one and the same environment all over. Either nothing but desert (ice, sand etc.), or jungle. Or — in the case of Alderaan — grass (how boring ... I had always envisioned Alderaan as a world blessed with great natural beauty). Coruscant turns out to be a nightmare of a planet completely covered with buildings (obviously is the assumption that the core world of something as bad as the Empire must be the ugliest place in the universe). I am just glad they managed to forego Corellia. I would have been heartbroken to find it a brown paperbag floating in space!

*Raiders of the Lost...* AHM! How come I have the feeling West End Games will not be too happy with that one?

Why was it safe to dump Leia on Alderaan? Hm, just think what would have happened had they dumped her on Tatooine! I just cannot imagine her on a sandfarm, repairing vaporators. Although I must assume that, with her tenaciousness and business-oriented mind, she would probably have gotten along better with Uncle Owen than dreamy-eyed, head-in-the-clouds Luke.

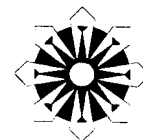
You and your crossbreds... Can I have one, too? I want a puppy from the mating of SW and *Simon & Simon*. Lemme rephrase that! (And quick, before Z. P. thinks that this is going to be a contribution to her next issue of *Garbage*).

I just read a short note on colors here in a newsmag. One passage says: “Black erases all colors, this also applies in the fighting sport of Jiu Jitsu. The black belt marks the peak, the end of the career.

HA! Here we go. Replace “black belt” with “black tunic”, replace jiu jitsu with Jedi/Sith ... bingo! One possible explanation why (aside from the obvious “good guys wear white, bad guys wear black” philosophy) the “finished” Jedi-Knight Luke wears black.

OK, enough now. Read you all again next time around in S.E. except Mary Jo Fox who will be sadly missed.

Fly casual...



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## HAD ENOUGH WINTER

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February 13, 1996

Greetings! Sorry, Cheree, I haven't written in a couple of issues, so this might be a long one... Oh, and congratulations on the new house! Before I get into comments, there are two things I'd like to mention. First, some of you may have heard that I've been having some physical problems which began in October. They have finally diagnosed (after my insisting on getting an MRI done when nothing else was conclusive) that I have a herniated disc in my neck, and it is being crushed on the left side, pinching off the C-7 nerve (I was amazed to find out they have the nerves numbered!) which runs from the neck down into the fingers. This explains all the pain I've been in and also the lack of feeling in my left index finger. We've no idea what caused this. But I might require surgery to remove the disc. They are telling me it's an "easy" surgery and I should only be in the hospital a couple of days. And I've had other surgeries done in the past so I'm sort of used to it. Then again, we've all heard horror stories about people having operations on the spinal cord at the base of the neck and ending up paralyzed, so I must say I'm going into this with *much* trepidation. But, I can't just go on with it the way it is, so I guess I just have to brave the surgery. Oh, and at the same time they diagnosed carpal tunnel, although it is a mild case, the doctor says. ((Ed: Pat, best wishes to you! Keep us posted on how you're doing!))

Marti Schuller: Sorry to ruin your wish that 1996 will be a healthier year for all of us. Well, technically this began in 1995 and they hope to fix it in 1996, so maybe...

My best wishes to Cheree, Laura Virgil and Wanda Lybarger for the surgeries they've gone through. It's never easy.

OK, now onto something fun. This isn't for anything SW related, *but I'm looking for some good artists*, and I know there are a lot of you who read SE! OK, the project is this: About a year and a half ago I began designing a role-playing game based on the TV series of *Highlander*. I just knew there was a market out there for this. I felt inspired so began work on it right away, and wrote to the producers of the show. Several months later I finally heard back from them and they said they had thought about doing a *Highlander* game and had hired a production company to arrange it. They sent me their address and so I wrote to

them. They in turn informed me, "Thank you but we've already hired a gaming company to produce a *Highlander* game, sorry..." Well, this game turned out to be the *Highlander card* game, which as most of you know is *nothing* like a role-playing game. I've decided I still want to put out my game (of which the writing is finished) but instead of having it produced professionally, I'm going to do it up like a zine and sell it at conventions. It may never happen but my hope is that someday a copy will fall into their hands, they'll like it, and contact me about finally putting it out professionally. (I've been told this happens a lot in the gaming world...) It will be produced at absolutely *no* profit (what zine is?). But it *really* needs artwork and lots of it. I'm looking for 5-10 artists to produce a total of about 50 pieces of art. All artists will get a free copy, of course. If interested, send a SASE for more information on what I'm looking for and for submission requirements. (And if any of you are interested in buying a copy when it's done, send a SASE for a flyer.)

OK, now after that shameless plug, on to comments.

Debbie Kittle: I hope you're happy! Can we pleeeeee have Spring now? I've had enough winter for 2-3 years and it hasn't been anywhere near as bad here in Holt (near Lansing), MI as in most of the rest of the country. But the weather out east affects my job (I run trucks out of our plant in Pennsylvania) so when they get bad weather it ruins my day too. Of course, by the time this is printed, it will be Summer (thank the Maker!).

What 3-D Falcon Puzzle?? If anyone can still find one in a store, please let me know and I'll send you money to grab it for me! I can't find it here anywhere (what is TRU?).

Carolyn Golledge: Congratulations! Gee and we can all say we knew you before you were famous!

Jacqueline Taero: You mention that Anakin/Darth supposedly gave Kenobi a lightsaber to give to his son when the child is older, and that this infers that he knew or suspected that Kenobi was aware of the boy's location. If this is true, you're right. But I've just got a feeling that this is another instance of Kenobi "stretching" the truth, as in telling Luke his father was dead. Okay, theoretically Anakin "died" when Vader was "born." I think in the case of the lightsaber, it is probably one left behind by Anakin or perhaps lost at the "volcano" when he "fell in." Kenobi took it into his care, feeling that it should go to Anakin's son. Vader didn't necessarily know anything about it at all. Of course, this is all conjecture, with no facts to back it up. But it does make sense.

I also have a big problem with Leia naming a child Anakin and an even bigger problem with Han going along with it. I could *easily* believe they would name their child Bail (no, you're not the only one to find this omission strange), the only father Leia ever knew, and in his

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memory, since he was murdered by the Empire. Of course, your comments about Leia never showing grief for the loss of Bail do also make sense. But Anakin... No! Maybe, just maybe, Leia may have accepted Anakin's redemption, but I don't think Han ever would and it's his son, too.

In reply to your comment to Gerald Crotty about Gary Kurtz, I wholeheartedly agree! I had the immense pleasure of actually meeting the man at a WorldCon one year. Loved him!

And regarding your *Lord of the Rings* comparisons, I could make a case for Kenobi being Gandalf, meddling and all. After all, didn't Gandalf manipulate Bilbo into his wanderings in *The Hobbit*? And didn't Gandalf have something to do with Saruman? (Of course, it has been a long time since I read it ... about time I picked it up again!)

Matthew Whitney: You mentioned *Lord of the Rings*, too. The 3-in-1 1992 volume is surely a great find, but I'm rather jealous of your leather bound set! I have *The Hobbit* in leather, but not LOTR. Would love to get it!

Regarding your comment to Z. P. Florian about OWK being Master enough to kill Vader, I'm not sure that the fight had anything to do with the level of his skill or with wanting to send Luke the "Run, Luke, run!" message. I think that OWK took on Vader with the sole intention of keeping him occupied and not having a chance to sense Luke with the Force. I think even at Luke's untrained state at that time there still would have been enough for Vader to sense him. And I think his decision to allow Vader to strike him down was just another example of his Mastery at manipulation. He knew that by his being killed by Vader, Luke would rebel against Vader even more than ever. He wanted Luke to *want* to take on Vader eventually. He also knew that by joining with the Force, he could be with Luke at all times, no chance of being separated. Why didn't OWK just kill Vader and be done with him? He probably just felt it wasn't the right time, and that it was something that Luke would have to do himself in order to progress. But I don't think OWK wanted Luke to know Vader was his father. He wanted Luke to kill "Vader", not "Anakin". He knew Luke would not want to kill his own father, no matter what.

Regarding pros whose personalities soured us on their writing... I too have been blessed to have met so many actors and authors who were genuinely pleasant and fascinating to talk to. There is only one whom I have met that soured me to his writing and that was Harlan Ellison. The only words I can use to describe that person are not fit to be printed on this page and I regret ever having to be in the same city with him, let alone the same building or the same room. The most polite thing I can say is that he is the most arrogant, self-centered egotist I've ever had the displeasure of meeting! On the other hand, I've had the *extreme* pleasure to meet Ray Bradbury and I was

impressed with Alan Dean Foster when I met him at a convention 16 years ago. I was gophering for the con and they'd asked me to "bodyguard" Bjo Trimble. I was sitting near her at a table where she was signing autographs. There was one chair in between us. Alan came over and sat in the empty chair to talk with her. But what impressed me was that not knowing who I was at all, he pushed the chair back a ways so that he didn't block me off from Bjo, then he introduced himself, shook my hand, and then proceeded to include me in *their* conversation (which was about business). He was so friendly and open, I liked him immediately. ((Ed: *Two of the nicest Big Names I've ever had the pleasure of meeting were George Takei — of whom not enough good can be said — and Grace Lee Whitney at ST cons in the 70's. I know Grace Lee had a lot of problems later on, but at that time she was open, friendly and interested in everything. I'll never forget going to dinner with her and her husband — in the company of others, not alone — and having a wonderful conversation with her there. One of the most unpleasant Big Names was David Gerrold who evidently was trying to be the next Harlan Ellison. He was so nasty that two ladies, who were assigned to drive him around town and to a TV station for an interview, finally had enough and abandoned him to find his own transportation.*))

To everyone: Just a few things I thought of and wanted to bring up. One is that it is almost a definite thing that the mother of Luke and Leia will be introduced in the new trilogy. I remember an article in the *TV Guide* a few months ago (unfortunately I didn't keep it and don't remember the date) where they interviewed Carrie Fisher. She said that she'd been hired by Lucas to help with the writing of the character of Luke and Leia's mother for the next movie.

Another "tidbit" is that at GenCon last August, the people from West End were giving a talk and they excitedly told us about the time they asked LucasFilm to send the floorplans for something (I think it was the *Millennium Falcon*) to include in their next sourcebook and, when the plans were sent to them, there was an extra set of plans included labeled "Lava City". They got a phone call the day after from LF asking if they'd received the package and, if so, was there something extra enclosed they hadn't asked for, called Lava City. West End told them there was and LF asked them to *please* send them back, poste haste. Hmm... Lava City... You find lava in *volcanos*, right? Hmmm...

And lastly, also at GenCon (did anyone else from SE go?) each year they do Sci-Fi Saturday (it is mainly a gaming con) and this year Mark Hamill was a guest. Gads, it was so exciting to actually see him in person! He gave a wonderful talk and did all his voices for us (including his infamous Joker's laugh), but to me the most interesting

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thing was his discussion on SW topics. I was amazed to hear that he felt similarly to some of us about several things. For one thing, he was not really happy with the third movie. He said that he was scheduled to have lunch with George the day after getting the script to read and his first comment to George was, "What are you trying to do, corner the market on teddy bear sales?" He did not like the Ewoks.

To all the family v. no family for Luke debaters: Sorry, but I have to cast my vote for "no family." I really see Luke as having only one love in his life — the Force, and devoting all his time and energy into training new Jedi and all that. I see him being a loner. I have to agree with Laura Virgil that there's absolutely nothing wrong with being single. Having a family doesn't guarantee a happy old age. Unlike Laura, I do believe in the concept that there is "someone out there for everyone", but as crowded as this planet is getting, the chances of finding that someone is getting smaller and smaller and, if you have an entire Galaxy to look through, good luck! And I *hate* to see Luke just settle for anyone. I have to add that while I have my lonely moments, I am *much* happier in my life in general now that I am single again than I ever was when I was married. If you're not married to that one perfect match for you, your married life can become a living hell. I would never wish that on Luke. My advice to Luke is: *Stay single!*

Laura Virgil: I really like your description of why OWK referred to the lightsaber as an elegant weapon. Although personally I don't find them *that* aesthetic, but that's a personal taste thing. But I agree. I am a non-violence person but I love to look at and handle various swords and would give anything to see the ceremonial saber your grandfather had! And it's one reason I enjoy *Highlander* so much. I love looking at that gorgeous katana *almost* (but not nearly) as much as watching Adrian Paul...

Z. P. Florian: Ooops — just noted you had a comment in the last issue almost identical to mine about Vader giving the lightsaber to Kenobi to give to Luke (or rather that he probably didn't). Nice to see we think alike!

You said you love it when we suggest good reads and shows. Well, here's a recommendation from me. Back when I was in high school in the 70's, I read a book called *Time and Again* by Jack Finney. It's a wonderfully romantic quasi-science fiction historical novel, kind of along the lines of H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*. This one, too, deals with time travel, but in a different way. I had lost my copy years ago and it went out of print quickly. I'd nearly forgotten about it until just recently the Quality Paperback Book Club offered it as a new selection (it's back in print!) ... along with a new sequel called *From Time to Time* by Jack Finney. I ordered them, of course,

and just finished reading them and I want more! In the front they list other books by him and under these two titles they also list *About Time* which I'm hoping turns this into a trilogy. *From Time to Time* was published in 1995, so *About Time* could be one that's not actually out yet. I'll be watching for it. Anyway, I *highly* recommend them. Oh, by the way, *Time and Again* takes place in "modern times" (it was written in the 70's) and in the 1880's and *From Time to Time* takes place in "modern times" and in 1910-1911. Both are *packed* full of wonderful photos and drawings of the times. They also deal with theories about trying to change history.

A. G. Steyn: You tell 'em!! I guess like most (not all) "typical" people who run things like *official* clubs, *professional* magazines, etc., this guy thinks that after a fan reaches a certain age, they "lose" interest. We're supposed to hit that age 25 and "grow up", and all that. Sheesh, yeah, tell that to the over 25 group in any other fandom, such as sports. Do you think they feel that a 40 year old just shouldn't be sitting in those bleachers, doing the wave, cheering for their team, wearing that team t-shirt and cap (and buttons, socks, shoes, etc.), or collecting those baseball cards and memorizing *everybody's* ERA, and every other tiny piece of information? No, that's acceptable. \*sigh\* I get so tired of that attitude. Well, I'm 42 and perfectly happy to be a *Star Wars* fan, whether he likes it or not! And you're right, *we* are the ones who kept the spirit of SW alive over the last few years. If we hadn't kept up with the zines and clubs, and all that, what would have kept the interest kindled? Grrrrr.....

Marlene Karkoska: I have to agree with you. I don't think we'll meet Luke's "wife" in the next trilogy. How could we — it's a prequel and Lucas has already said that (and sorry, I don't remember where I read this, and I know he does change things a lot) the closest we might come to seeing any of the "Big 3" (Han, Luke and Leia) in the next trilogy is at the end of the third movie we might run into a "ten year old Corellian cabin boy" working for Captain Antilles, and that Luke and Leia's birth will probably be "pending" at the end of the movies.

Louise Turner: Yes, it was a civil war. I don't see how there can be any doubt. After declaring himself Emperor, Palpatine ruled the Galaxy, but he only ruled the exact same government of which he'd been elected President. He changed it from a democratic form of government (or something close to it) into a dictatorial Empire, but it governed the same areas, the same people. It was from these people, now citizens of the Empire, that the Rebel Alliance was formed. Now, I'm sure that since the beginnings of the Empire new worlds were grasped by the Empire, and others joined up with the Alliance, spreading the fight out beyond the initial boundaries, but at the base it is still a civil war.

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If you look in the original *Star Wars* novel, there is a good argument for this being a civil war. *"Aided and abetted by restless power-hungry individuals within the government, and the massive organs of commerce, the ambitious Senator Palpatine caused himself to be elected President of the Republic ... Once secure in office, he declared himself Emperor, shutting himself away from the populace."* It then says, *"Many used the Imperial forces and the name of the increasingly isolated Emperor to further their own personal ambitions. But a small number of systems rebelled at these new outrages. Declaring themselves opposed to the New Order, they began the great battle to restore the Old Republic."* This describes a rebellion from within, which as far as I understand, is what a civil war is.

I fully agree with your interpretation that the Empire believes in human supremacy and domination over all others while the Alliance represents those free-thinkers who believe in human and alien rights alike and are against exploitation. I always thought this was kind of obvious in the movies, but I know I've heard other viewpoints. In *Forces of the Empire*, we've widened the Empire to having *females* in high positions as well, but I fully acknowledge that this is only because a large percentage of role-players are female, some females enjoy playing "the bad guy", and if we said "No Women in the Imperial Forces", we'd have a vastly outnumbered division in the Blaster Battle at MWC!

An interesting side note to this topic... As I was looking through the opening pages of the novelization of SW, I came across a paragraph that would make it look like Palpatine is actually little more than a puppet moving to the strings of his advisors: *"Soon he was controlled by the very assistants and boot-lickers he had appointed to high office, and the cries of the people for justice did not reach his ears."* This seems to imply that their cries for justice may have been listened to, had Palpatine heard what was going on. It then goes on to say: *"Having exterminated through treachery and deception the Jedi Knights, guardians of justice in the galaxy, the Imperial governors and bureaucrats prepared to institute a reign of terror among the disheartened worlds of the galaxy."* Note it says the governors and bureaucrats did this — *not* Palpatine! (And curiously not the Sith or Dark Jedi.) From the first quote, it makes me think that Palpatine knew nothing at all about what was going on. Although Lucas paints an entirely different picture of him by the third movie. I'd like to hear other comments on these quotes.

Also, another side issue of Palpatine that has always interested me: Did Palpatine always look that ugly? Or did the use of the Dark Side of the Force turn him that way? Did he look "normal" when elected to the Presidency?

Maggie Nowakowska and Cheree Cargill: Love your

ideas for the 50th issue. As for raising the money, there are a number of ways, and I don't see a reason why not to do them all. You could put a donation box out at the SE party in MWC and welcome donations through the mail. You could do a special drawing where everyone who sends in a donation gets their name put into a "hat", then you would (probably at MWC at the party or in a future issue of SE), pick a name and the winner would win something nice, like some donated collector item or maybe a free one-year subscription to SE, or something like that. Another idea: why not set up a table for one afternoon (maybe just outside the Cantina) and do a SW bake sale? Members of SE could make candy, cakes, or cookies of SW shapes — I'm sure lots of us have those old cake tins shaped like Vader, Chewie and others, and the plastic candy molds and cookie cutters. We'd bring them to the convention and SE members could donate some time to sit at the table and sell the eatables, with proceeds going to the #50 issue. If by some chance you get more donations than needed, the excess money could either go into the next issue or be donated to some worthy charity in SE's name. I've got lots of ideas on this subject because I've been thinking for a long time of doing something similar with our 100th issue of *Bound by the Force*, which is due out the beginning of the year 2001! Couldn't have timed that better if I'd tried! (*Ed: A bake sale is an interesting idea but to be practical you'd need a local kitchen in which to bake the goodies. I doubt they'd travel well. Maybe we could hold it at YOUR house, since you're just down the road from the hotel, and sponsor the First Annual SE v. FOE Blaster Battle and Bake-Off!*)

I also really like the idea of the Who's Who with pictures, bios, etc. It would be great to learn more about the readers/contributors and get to see the faces of those we've never met. Great idea.

Maggie Nowakowska: I really like your views of the Jedi, especially the idea that aggressive would-be Jedi simply didn't become Jedi, and that possibly many of them did end up becoming Sith. I've thought this very same thing all along.

Regarding the topic of why Luke was raised on Tatooine, I found your comments interesting and have heard many viewpoints on this. I can't help wondering if it wasn't actually something very simple. One possibility is that it was agreed that the best people to raise him were Owen and Beru, and they probably already had the moisture farm going there, this was their home. So there was no choice of where to send him. Another possibility could be the old adage: The best place to hide something is right under their nose. There were obviously Imperials stationed on Tatooine. As remote as Luke felt Tatooine was (haven't a lot of us felt the same way about our own home towns when we've wanted to travel?), there are no



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facts to back up that it was all that remote. Perhaps he was just under their noses and they never knew it.

You mentioned the movie *Hidden Fortress*. I've never heard of it and you've peaked my interest. Do you have a copy of the original version? I'd love to get a copy, so if you do, can we work a deal?

Please pass on a hearty congratulations to Susan Matthews for selling 2 novels to Avon Books!

I also found it interesting that Lucas pronounces it H-short a-n like Lando. But that's OK. I always felt that the reason there was a difference in pronunciation could be explained simply as differences in accents (you say potAto, I'll say pot-ah-to...). I can readily accept the fact that H-short a-n is the *correct* pronunciation, while I speak it with the accent. I guess I've pronounced it H-ah-n so long now, it just doesn't sound right to me the other way.

John Fredericks and Nora Mayers: Swarsies? Swarsers? UGH! But I have to admit the only term I can think of is "Star Wars Fans"... hmmm ... SWans? ((Ed: But is that SW-short a-ns or SW-ah-ns?))

Nora Mayers: What a shock! I was reading my copy of SE the day I received it and I came across your letter mentioning what a fan you are of Gene Kelly. And yes, if SW had been done a few decades ago (I shudder to think of it done with those tacky 50's sci-fi flick effects...), I could very easily see Gene Kelly playing the part of Han. I'm also a big fan of his, by the way, although I'm a big fan of that era in general. My favorites are Gene Kelly, Danny Kaye, and Bing Crosby.

Anyway, the shock came when, the very next day, I heard the news of Gene Kelly's death. I immediately thought of you. So I'm sending you a long-distance, in print, hug — with condolences from a fellow fan.

Cheryl Pryor: I also have always believed that Palpatine manipulated Anakin into the Dark Side. I don't think there's really any facts to back this up, but just looking at the two together, there just seems to be something a lot more personal about Vader's subservience to Palpatine and the Emperor's orders to Vader than just that of Emperor and subject.

Tim Blaes: GROAN!! Chia Bantha or Chia Vader? (Why not a Chia Wookiee?) Hey, Cheree, here's another project for you to raise money for #50!

A crossover between Trek and Oz? How about SW and Oz? I've got a play I've been kicking around for a few years now that someday I might just write and do at MWC. Some of it was actually written at one point but I can't find the notes now. Leia wakes up one day and finds herself and R2, not at the New Capitol for the New Republic, but rather on Earth at a science fiction convention in Wichita, Kansas. One of the best lines I remember was when Darth Vader (actually a fan dressed up like Darth) who is upset with Leia because she accidentally knocked a piece off his

costume, says to her, "I'll get you, my pretty — and your little droid, too!" And then there's the song the convention-goers sing to Leia: "We welcome you to Wichita, fa la la la la la la la la la..." I won't tell anymore 'cause if I ever do get this thing written, I don't want all the good lines spoiled!

You also mentioned *Splinter of the Mind's Eye*. While I agree it does need some fixing, I have to say that I enjoyed the book when it came out and I still do. I think it's a good story. I like the ideas you have for "fixing" it. Hey, there you go, Tim. Why don't you write it? If we won't ever see it in "professional" print, I'm sure there are any number of zines who would grab it up in a minute, including *Imperium*! By the by, did you know that there's a comic book mini-series of this story?

To everyone: Well, I'm finally ending this letter. I've missed joining in these pages and look forward to the next issue.

## MASTER SWORDMAKER

Matthew Whitney  
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March 29, 1996

Congrats, Cheree, on the upcoming move. It sounds exciting and like you and the family are looking forward to it. We'll expect pictures and details on how everything is settling in. And may it be a stress-free move (if that is possible)! I've a "move from hell" story I won't burden anyone with, involving the last time I helped my brother move. Suffice it to say, the only thing that didn't go wrong was the weather. My advice, Cheree, start packing now.

You mentioned a possible price hike for SE. Put me on record that any price policy that's reasonable, that keeps the zine on its feet, is fine by me. I buy because I love it, not because it fits the budget. For the \$ you charge, the hours spent reading and writing new LoCs make this a bargain.

Jacqueline Taero: Did Anakin/Darth leave a saber only for his son and not one for the twin? Good observation! Maybe Luke's ROTJ saber came from Anakin's belongings, rather than being built by Luke, himself. Also, has anyone ever written a story about a possible Wayland-like master sword-maker, whose sole occupation was building sabers for other Jedi? It seems like a fertile topic.

On whether Leia ever grieved over Bail Organa's death: I imagine the fanfic from ANH to TESB was full of it. True, we get little on the screen, but perhaps that is due to



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Lucas' stoic style. Recall how he allowed Mark Hamill a crying take over the deaths of Owen and Beru, but put the restrained scene of his reaction into the final cut of the film.

Also, the rebellion is probably full of individuals with tales of suffering and woe that led them to join the fight against the Empire. As a symbol of the resistance, Leia probably adopts the role of lead by example. Rather than wallowing in grief and self-pity, she gets on with the job at hand — a business first mentality, before every corridor is filled with rebels crying their eyes out over the burdens they all are carrying. In the privacy of her quarters, out of the eyes of others, she probably releases it. Does this sound like a typical “male” attitude? Consider who wrote the saga and who’s writing this LoC. Stereotypes are often justly earned. If the scene of Leia being stiff-upper-lipped (“We have no time for our sorrows”) doesn’t seem real to the character or the situation, as well as being an ineffective way to deal with grief, then perhaps the scene reveals more about the writer than the character. (The prof of the English course I’m taking now would probably call this “biographical fallacy,” interpreting a piece as a reflection of the author — but I covered my tail by saying this is only a possibility.)

Laura Virgil: Where was I when ANH opened? Fifteen years old, half-way through high school, and growing away from the childhood chums (who were all off to different HSs). I’d always been a fan of SF, especially media, but had no connections other than the friends I chose shared that interest (though most were beginning to look at it as kid stuff where I thought there was even more to it). When SW opened, billed as the ultimate SF film, I had to see it — but waited for the lines to die down. In those days, even seeing movies at anywhere but the third run neighborhood theater 75¢ Saturday matinee was a major step. So, I caught it with my brother during a sparsely attended supper-time show ... and the rest is history. The core of friends I have now began with people I knew casually in high school, but when we found our common interest in SW we became true soul-mates.

Laura, your hesitation over *Toy Story* struck a common cord with me. I haven’t seen it either, mostly because of my feeling that computer animation is rather cold, as compared to handpainted cells. (And I’m the one who keeps saying computers are the wave of the future for receiving info — yes, I do see the double standard.) An analogy that struck me is that handpainted cells are the illuminated manuscripts of medieval times, while computer images are mass-market printed paperbacks. The former are a more “elegant” art form, but are the product of a time not to be recaptured.

Debbie Kittle: Hallmark puzzle? Did you misread my LoC (or did I have a typo)? I was praising the 96 calendar,

but a 3-D *Falcon* puzzle sounds neat!

Maggie Nowakowska: Your idea for us LoCers to do “something” for Cheree to celebrate issue 50 is terrific, as are Cheree’s plans for the issue itself. Count me in! ((Ed: I want to restate that this was Maggie’s idea. I have not solicited anything in regards to this project.))

Ben may have been pissed off at Luke when he sent him to Yoda. His tone can be read as sort of “If I’ve told you once, I’ve told you 1000 times...” My take on the dialog, however has always been more from the side of Ben giving Luke something to focus on, to keep him alive and moving toward his destiny. “You WILL go to the Dagobah system . . . you WILL learn from Yoda.” [My emphasis.] It was a “do or do not,” approach. Ben didn’t merely “want” him to go to Yoda — he told him he “would” go. He made the instruction an unbreakable command, something Luke’s mind could focus on to keep it alive.

A race of Dagobytes rather than a solitary Yoda, sure, why not? We cannot presume they do not exist just because we haven’t seen them. In all our musings about the Saga, I guess we’re like archaeological researchers, trying to reconstruct the entire culture of a lost people from some bones and pottery scraps, with the scant six hours of canonical films serving as our only base to build our extrapolations on, that and our imaginations.

Restored footage in classic films: I’m reminded that I own the classic *Frankenstein* and *King Kong* tapes. With both films, the originals were edited to remove scenes that were considered too horrific/immodest for public viewing. In my tapes, these scenes have been restored, and I consider them the “canon” versions, despite the fact that they are not the versions I first embraced and grew to love. (More double standard on my part?)

John Fredricks: Seems like we hit right near the same mark in responding to why Yoda held off teaching Luke (only Imperial stormtroopers are so precise... ! :-)). As a fellow teacher, you in HS Chemistry, me in HS Business & Math — do you have any SW ties? My Vader TIE fighter tie is a student favorite.

Tim Blaes: I’m usually not one for crossovers, but *SW/Voyager* sounds promising. Stylistically, the ship would fit nicely among the Mon Calamari fleet.

As for scanning SE’s pages to see if anyone mentions your name, I’m guilty as well. I must confess to a degree of vanity to see if anyone finds my stuff at all interesting ... or a load of crap. But also, I want to see if I need to address any particular comments to people who took the time and care to point out something in my previous LoC. I hate not replying to everyone who mentions something I wrote, but I hold off to save Cheree the need to print an issue full of “thanks for enjoying my comment on this ridiculously unimportant item of trivia.” If anyone feels

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I've ignored something you wanted to continue debating, don't rely on subtle hints to this dimwit. I often must be stoutly buffeted with a quarterstaff!

The "scanning" of SE is a regular ritual, as usually I've a dozen things going on when an issue arrives. I find it impossible to read SE without a note pad to begin my next LoC, much like one would read an important reference for a college course. Notes are jotted down, passages referenced, all the preparations one makes for a legitimate research paper. Thus the reason I was absent for a string of issues, when I couldn't muster the time needed to devote to each issue. Now, I'm if anything even busier than ever, but I can prioritize better.

Keep the Force alive!

### JOINED THE COMPUTER AGE

Marlene Karkoska  
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April 6, 1996

Hello, Everyone! Well, I finally broke down and joined the computer age! I bought a computer the last day of 1995, and I love it! This is my first computer-generated LoC. It certainly is a *lot* easier to do them this way than to do them by hand. ( ... And to think that I went all through high school, college, and graduate school without even knowing how to type! It used to take me as long to type my term papers as it did to research and write them!) I'm sure you're delighted too, Cheree! As I remember, years ago I often sent you *very* lengthy, hand-printed LoCs that you then had to type! I'm sure that wasn't much fun! I now have an e-mail address too. (I tried the Internet for the first time last week, and I sent my first piece of e-mail!). I would enjoy hearing from all of you. I love it when the little computer voice announces: "You have mail!" My address is: Marlenejk@AOL.com.

Congratulations on your new house, Cheree! It looks lovely! May you and your family share many happy times in it! Enjoy!

I was very sorry to hear about the death of Brian Daley. I did not know that he was ill and his death came as kind of a shock. I was lucky and won autographed versions of his SW and TESB books that contain the scripts of his radio adaptations. They arrived two days before my surgery in October. When I sent him a card to thank him, I told him that I was looking forward to reading them during my convalescence. After I returned from the hospital, another

package arrived from Mr. Daley. He had sent me another book to read while I was "on the mend". I thought that was very nice of him. After all, I was a stranger to him. He never hinted that he was ill himself. I'm glad that he was able to accomplish his goal of completing the radio versions of the trilogy before his death. I heard that he died the day after the ROTJ radio play was finished.

I enjoyed *Shadows of the Empire*. I thought that the characterizations were done well. Now we know what Luke and Leia were doing between TESB and ROTJ, and we now know why there was a time gap between the two films. Do you think that this book now joins the "canon" material (films, novelizations, radio adaptations)?

On the other hand, I thought *Before the Storm* was really *awful*! When did Leia get to be so unpopular? Leia did not seem to be in character either, and Luke's characterization was *terrible*! I can't imagine Luke leaving his responsibilities to become a hermit. Having a thirty-something Jedi pining away for a mother he never knew was ridiculous, and having him wear a patchwork robe with even bits of a pilot's uniform in it, was downright silly, IMHO anyway! Once again, he certainly didn't behave like a Jedi Master and he seemed very immature. Who picks these authors anyway?!!

Jacqueline Taero: I'm almost positive that Vader did not know he had a daughter until the end of ROTJ. He seemed genuinely surprised when he said to Luke: "So you have a sister! Obi-Wan was wise to hide her. Now his failure is complete!" As for whether he knew he had a son, I'm not as sure about that. However, I tend to think he didn't know until after the events of ANH. Since we learned about Luke's parentage in TESB, I have always interpreted Kenobi's line about the lightsaber to mean that Ben assumed that Anakin Skywalker would have wanted his son to have his saber if he had been himself and had not been lost to the Dark. Maybe the day Anakin made his saber, he made a comment to Obi-Wan about planning to pass on his saber to the son he hoped to have one day. Kenobi may have used that as license to tell Luke that his father wanted him to have it when he was old enough.

I found your idea about a wrongly accused Anakin to be quite interesting and very plausible. As you said, "Hurt, bewildered, and angry" over being falsely accused, he *would* have been a prime candidate for conversion to the Dark "with a little help from Palpatine." Good story material!

I agree with you! Anakin would have been the last name Leia would have wanted to name her child! I would have thought that she would have been more inclined to name her son Chewbacca than Anakin! I also agree that it is very puzzling why she would not have named one of her children after Bail Organa. Maybe your theory *is* correct! Maybe Leia and Bail *didn't* get along! Now, that would

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*really* make an interesting story! (What would have caused the rift between the two?! I would really *love* to see someone tackle this tale!) If Leia didn't want to name her child after her foster father, I would have thought she would have preferred to name him after her brother rather than her father.

M. J. Mink: Well, I still don't think we quite agree about Luke, but I did chuckle over your comment about him: "Luke was the distracting chickadee that allowed the dog to pounce on the mesmerized cat." This brought a very funny image to my mind. It's too bad I don't draw very well. I think it could make a good cartoon...

You have an interesting theory: that Yoda might have known that Anakin would fall to the Dark but let it happen because it was Anakin's destiny to become part of the Dark, so that he could eventually defeat the Dark's agent, Palpatine. I suppose it *is* possible! However, if so, how awful that Vader and his followers had to destroy the entire Jedi order to ultimately get rid of one man. It seems like a very high price for the Galaxy to pay! If the other Jedi knights had not been betrayed and murdered, I would think that they would have eventually found a way to eliminate the Emperor. (Hopefully, without the loss of the entire Order.)

Laura Virgil: Welcome back, Laura! I'm one of the "old timers", and I remember you very well! I have only recently rejoined SE myself.

You and I are in full agreement about the Solo kids! They *don't* talk or act like real children. They *are* obnoxious!

I also agree that the fact that Kenobi was the friend of Luke's father was probably the most powerful reason that Luke was willing to listen to him and follow him. However, I disagree that Luke knew about Kenobi's "grandiose reputation" before he spoke with him in Kenobi's hut. If you remember, Luke told Threepio that Kenobi was "... kind of an old hermit that lives beyond the Dune Sea." Hardly sounds like a grandiose reputation!

Z. P. Florian: I don't understand how anyone can "...make a trilogy that ends with the hero falling to the Dark Side" either! I think a good part of the reason that the original *Star Wars* and the first trilogy were so successful was that they had a happy, upbeat ending. The audience could leave the theater with a good feeling and with the knowledge that good had triumphed over evil. They could leave with a light heart humming John Williams' wonderful music. Perhaps the reason that TESB was the least commercially successful of the three films (even though it was well-made), was that it was missing that feel-good ending that the other two had. If Lucas is planning to make a trilogy of depressing movies, I don't think they will be well received. People went back to see ANH again and again because they *enjoyed* it. They aren't going to go

back repeatedly to get depressed. The real world can make them depressed for free!

I also agree with your comments to Matthew Whitney about special effects. For me, it's the story and characters that are paramount. The special effects are the least important part of a film for me. It's true that they can enhance the look and enjoyment of a good film, but if the story and characters aren't interesting and engaging, all the greatest special effects in the universe won't save the movie. I think that the special effects in ANH are just fine!!! I would like to see the Biggs scenes someday though. I think those would add to the story. Do you think Lucas might someday be willing to sell a video version of ANH with the Biggs scenes included?

I hope M.J. Mink takes you up on your offer to write a story together! I would *love* to read the end result! It would be interesting to read a story where Luke was raised as a Prince of Alderaan and Leia was raised on Tatooine. Having each of you concentrate on a different character and then combine the stories would be great! I hope that you will illustrate it. I'd really enjoy seeing Luke dressed as Alderaan's Prince! How about it, Minky, is it a deal?

Z. P., I'm also in full agreement with you in your comments to Gerald Crotty. I too am sure that Luke and Leia were not originally meant to be brother and sister, let alone twins!

Mary Jo Fox: Oh, say it isn't so, Mary Jo! I enjoy your usually upbeat, positive letters! You always have great ideas! I hope you will change your mind about not writing any more LoCs! You will be greatly missed! I'm glad that at least you will continue to write and publish in the SW universe. Good luck with your pro efforts, and I still hope to see a LoC from you in SE #45!

Matthew Whitney: You asked when Luke should have been told the truth about his parentage. I still think that Yoda and Ben should have told Luke when he first arrived on Dagobah, before he began Jedi training. If they weren't willing to tell him then, at least he should have been told before he left to try to rescue Han and Leia. (...and I feel that if he wasn't prepared to tell Luke the whole truth, Ben shouldn't have told Luke that his father had been a Jedi Knight. He set Luke up for an even harder fall by giving the young man an even loftier image of his father. Ben would have been better off saying nothing about Luke's father at all.)

Debbie Kittle: You're right: The *Illustrated SW Universe* is beautiful! Although the new mastheads are nicely done, I too miss the old ones. Maybe it's possible that the old ones can reappear from time to time. What do you say, Cheree? It would be especially nice to have the old cover masthead in the 50th issue. ((Ed: I never intended to fully retire the old mastheads. They'll pop up now and then.))

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Louise Turner: Did you finish your thesis? I hope so, because then you'll have more time to write Wedge and Luke stories! You really do a much better characterization of Wedge than they do in the X-wing novels or comics, in my opinion. Of course, I also miss Luke in the pro Wedge stories. I like the relationship between the two of them, and I like stories in which they work together. Keep writing!

Maggie Nowakowska: I think it would have been very easy for Imperial propaganda to have been spread throughout the Galaxy, even to remote planets *because* of the technology. While I was in college, I took biology for several quarters. We had labs that had only about 15 students, but we had lectures in a huge auditorium where 350 people were present. Some of these lessons were televised and sent to several other lecture halls when an important guest speaker arrived. I could easily see where a given subject could be taught to classes on 100 or even 1000 worlds at a time by beaming an instructor's lesson (or a propaganda tape) throughout the galaxy. Our technology today is pretty amazing. It is making our world seem like a much smaller place. The technology of the SW galaxy seems much more advanced than our own. I don't think it would be hard for the Empire to make its presence felt on many worlds. I think they would be sure to start their propaganda with the younger students too. Young children are very impressionable, after all.

Cheryl Pryor: I'm glad you liked my idea about Tarkin as Palpatine's little brother. No, I haven't written a story about it. You're welcome to try to write one if you wish! Unfortunately, I'm not a SW author. (...and I only write stories for children anyway.)

I agree that Jedi powers don't necessarily have to be used solely in military applications. As you probably noticed in my LoC last issue, I too think that there can be Jedi in almost any occupation.

John Fredericks: Thanks for the support in my "Luke as a family man" crusade! I'm glad to hear that someone else feels that Luke deserves to have a family. I wish more people felt that way! (...particularly some of the pro authors. I'd love to see one of them take a chance and give lonely, long-suffering Luke a wife and kids!)

I'm not sure though that we know that Luke was raised by relatives. We do know that Owen was Ben Kenobi's brother, but we don't yet know for certain that Luke was actually a blood relative of either Owen or Beru Lars. (At least, I don't *think* we know that. Did I miss something? It's entirely possible!) If Luke is really related to Owen, then he and Leia are related to Ben too. I think Luke may end up being Ben's grandson (his mother's father). Perhaps Luke and Leia's maternal grandmother was related to Bail Organa.

I'm in *complete* agreement with you: NO MORE

## DEATH STARS!

Tim Blaes: Your ideas about the time travel stories are very good. I would enjoy reading both of them. Your story idea about Leia sounds like it could be very serious and very sad, but it is intriguing. Your story idea about the children seeing their mom, dad, and uncle when they were very young sounds like it could be a great comedy! When are you going to start writing them?

I don't want Lucas to "fix what isn't broken" either. I still say the only scenes that should be added are the Biggs scenes. I wish Lucas would spend more of his time and money on new films instead of on redoing films that are already classics. I really want to see the sequel films someday, but he'll never get to those until the prequel films are finished. It seems that the date for the release of the first prequel film keeps getting pushed back. Now I hear 1999...

Wonderful question: "If the SW saga is ultimately Darth Vader's story, what role *can* he play in the 'last trilogy'?"! Exactly! Maybe he comes back as a "ghost" like Ben Kenobi and trains his grandchildren! (Maybe I shouldn't give George Lucas any ideas!)

Well, this LoC is again longer than I intended! For those of you who will be attending MediaWestCon: Have a *great* time! Good luck to all of the authors and artists and zine eds when the STAR aWARDs are given out! I appreciate everyone's efforts! May you all continue to write and draw in the SW universe for many, many years to come!

Have a wonderful summer!

## SW AT NORWESCON - SEATTLE

Maggie Nowakowska  
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June 5, 1996

Good lord. I certainly didn't expect to get an big, yellow envelope from Judy Yuenger in the mail! Gosh. Thanks all, for the Honorable Mention for SW filks! 'Tis deeply appreciated out here in the wilds of the great western Northwest.

As for the last SE, I really thought I was in a pickle. That big yellow envelope arrived just before all the OT at work hit this spring. Noting the long lead time, I carefully put the issue aside, in a very safe place, to await a break in time to answer it. Then, when that break hit, I couldn't find the bloody thing! Was frustrated for days, and that wasn't

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good. After 6 months of massive OT, and I mean gonzo OT, I needed some diversion. Finally, a few days later — ah! I found my issue! Piled under some story binders that also got put away for lack of time. Whew.

I hope everyone at MWC packed good vibes into the walls of the hotel for next year; Susan and I intend to be there in '97. We did make it to Norwescon this year (the NW regional con) and caught a great SW show by Steve Sansweet of LF. He not only showed clips and film from the various *Shadows of the Empire* products, from book to Nintendo game, but we also got to see in-work film clips and recorded satellite feed discussions between GL and the crew working on the reworked rereleases due out next February and March. An extra bonus was the showing of the trailer provided for theater buyers — the local concomm managed to get its hands on a 35 mm projector, not something available to every con this year, I'm told — and that trailer was a lot of fun. It even jazzed up those of us present who hadn't been too keen on reworking the films.

(Some of this may be old news by the time this gets printed, but I'll include it for historical purposes, if nothing else. At least we'll have a record of some of what was said when.)

An interesting bit: at the presentation Sansweet mentioned that we would now see that Greedo fired first in the cantina. Our section of the audience wasn't terribly impressed with that news and when Sansweet was on the GENie RTC in May, I asked about it. He replied that the notion *is* controversial and may not occur; the decision is still up in the air. Those of us on the RTC encouraged him to report back that the notion was not thought well of in at least one corner of the galaxy. We wanted our Han left ambiguous, especially at the beginning.

So, although I like the movies well enough just as they are, I am intrigued by many of the improvements. We'll see a Jabba a couple years younger than ROTJ and more mobile. We'll see a much busier Mos Eisley, with a great new dino-type animal. At the end of ROTJ, there'll be a shot of the galactic center reacting to Palpatine's death.

Gerald Crotty: Sansweet said that the most new minutes will be in ANH, with the least in TESB. He also confirmed that the Biggs footage will not be incorporated into the movie. Apparently, GL still feels that footage slows the movie down and distracts from the subsequent story.

Regarding the new movies, on the RTC, Sansweet reported that the first draft of the first movie, Episode I, is completed, and that the story arc for all three movies has been written. The casting crew is out looking for actors to play a young teen Anakin and a young woman of similar age. If I remember correctly, the first movie occurs when Anakin is a young teen and OWK is in his thirties. The second movie has Anakin a couple years older; the third has him about the same age as Luke in ANH. Also,

according to Sansweet, we'll see Palpatine's machinations as they develop over that same time period.

To the letters:

Laura Virgil: Thanks for your artistic insight on the "elegant weapon" argument. I hadn't thought of it that way before and you do have a very good point. My small knife collection is based on both utility and beauty. (And the reason it's small is that I realized early on that I could never afford the beautiful knives I wanted, and so didn't get into serious collecting. Sigh.)

Your comment on not posting show art that you know won't sell is well taken. I've been there — all the carting and hanging and paperwork of fantastic art from friends who are professional illustrators, but — either the subject matter wasn't popular that year, or it wasn't portrait art of the right characters, or the people who like that sort were clearly not the people with money. Added to the physical hassle and the worry over other people's art was the heartbreak/embarrassment of having to cart it all back and explain that it didn't sell.

On the issue of the rereleased Saga, the #65 issue of *CINEFEX: the journal of cinematic illusions*, carried an interview with Lucas in which they asked him:

"On your special edition, do you expect any backlash from fans who might resent your tampering with a classic?"

His answer: "I don't know. It's my classic. On the one hand I'm doing this, while on the other I'm on the Artists Rights Board, a foundation that's trying to protect films from being changed — which I feel very strongly about, because with the technology we have today, anybody can go back and do this kind of thing. I can sort of see the future, and I want to protect films as they are and as they should be. I don't want to see them colorized, I don't want to see their formats changed. I don't want to see them reedited, and I don't want to see what I'm able to do now, which is add more characters and do all kinds of things that nobody even contemplated before.

"What I'm doing [with SW], I think, is what a lot of painters do and some writers do — which is to go back and repaint or rewrite. Go into any artist's studio and you'll find lots of paintings on the wall that look completely finished and completely fine. And the artist will say, 'Well, I'm leaving them there because I'm not happy with them.' If I had been an artist and a painter, and I had done STAR WARS, I would have probably left it on the wall, because I wasn't happy with it, even at the time. Everybody else was saying: 'This is great! Didn't it turn out great?' And I would say: 'No. I had to compromise. It didn't turn out the way I wanted it. It fell short of what I wanted it to be.' And they would say 'What are you talking about? You must be nuts!'

"Well, now they're going to find out what I was talking

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about. Finally they're going to see what it was that bugged me so much — because now I can have it be exactly the way I wanted it to be. Well, maybe not a hundred percent. But it went from being what, in my mind, was maybe 60 or 70 percent of what I wanted, up to now being about 93 or 94 percent of what I wanted it to be."

Earlier in the interview, Lucas was quoted: "We have a new Jabba the Hutt that's so much better than the old one I had to work with. I mean, that one wouldn't act! It was just a big old rubber thing. But now I've got one that's very articulate. Its speech is fantastic — the lip-sync is great. The tongue is great, the eye movement — everything! And he walks, too... We're doing the new films, and it's like: *"Gosh, I can have Yoda walk. I could never have Yoda walk before. And, you know, I don't have to stage scenes around R2 and 3PO anymore. I can actually make them more facile. And other characters — I can create characters that don't have to be people in suits."* That's where the real thrill of it all comes. That's what's bringing me back to doing it, in a way — just the fun of it."

Back to Maggie. It's an interesting situation, isn't it? As you said, many of us wince to think of past production, no matter how much friends and fans tell us they loved the story/art. And, certainly, over the centuries, artists have often redone work, even destroyed previous work that had been accepted and respected. Perhaps it's because making movies is such a new art — and is an art that hits many people first on a visceral level — that we react badly to having our beloved pictures change. Or, at least some of us do. There is, after all, a huge market for colorized films and plenty of people out there to laugh at those who complain about that.

(And it's clear that when Lucas talks about improving the movies, he's talking about production values, presentation, the craft of the movie, not about rewriting storylines, characterizations, or such. He wants to accentuate the "feel" of the universe, not the plotting of his story.)

Oh, Laura, the question of Han's presentation in ROTJ deserves a ramble through old SEs. Can you find someone to borrow some from? You'll find a wealth of arguments! And believe me, your feelings predominate. For me, the last kiss worked just fine in context. In a different movie, with a different focus, I can see a more involved embrace, but the tone of ROTJ moved too fast and was definitely geared toward that action. I honestly can imagine lots of young voices moaning, *Aw, Here comes the mush!* if the camera and the actors had lingered. But, then, I read the H&L romance much more astringently than many fans do; I see them both as pretty cut-to-the-action people. For me, personally, to kiss more passionately in the circumstances and open company would have been out of character.

Those two never seem to give away more about themselves than they have carefully calculated they have to.

Jacqueline Taero: Actually, I thought it was pretty clear in ROTJ, when Vader reacted to Luke's thoughts on Leia, that Vader was ignorant of the news that a sister existed. "*Sister? You have a twin sister?*" sounds surprised to me. Which knocks out the "he knew about the girl, too" theory and could lean the argument back toward Vader not knowing about either kid.

As for Mom's politics, my prejudice is to have her involved in reform politics that, for whatever reasons a person might like to posit, go wrong and end up with Palpatine taking over. Maybe the reformers were a bit too hasty, maybe too blood-thirsty, maybe too naive or just too damn stubborn; maybe their reforms weren't as well-founded, or as new & improved as they imagined; maybe they were so fractionalized that Palpatine's forcefulness seemed a beacon of unity in the mess. This way, you don't have to paint Mom absolutely one way or the other, and can leave her frustrated by the nastiness that came along with Palpatine's strength and seductions. She can certainly feel wronged and betrayed, but her involvement in every thing that led up to the disaster would not paint a picture of saintly, wronged virtue. After all, isn't Totally Nasty just as much a cartoon figure as Totally Saintly? Why indulge in either?

Nora Mayers: Absolutely, Gene Kelly always played a very Han Soloish character; after all, Han was the only "modern," and very American, character in the Saga.

Marlene Karkoska: Regarding a woman for Luke, there are times, when I'm feeling really cranky, that I'd love for Luke to come home with someone who puzzles all the home folks, someone who obviously pleases — clearly, unquestionably pleases Luke, but who leaves everyone else, well, polite but not indifferent. Oh, she'd be a decent enough person — I'm not positing any darkside counterpart or strange character — but rather, someone with whom he apparently communicates with very well and who clearly inspires affection in him ... but someone who Leia finds impenetrable and who Han finds the antithesis of sexy. Someone who carries on with her own business and friends and interests which just happen to have very little to do with Han or Leia or anyone else of the revolutionaries. Maybe she's a professor in biology, or ancient literature, or a businesswoman. She's civil and social and courteous and Luke loves her and doesn't care that his "family" doesn't understand/is bored by her. In a way, I'm thinking of my sister-in-law who is a dear sweet woman, a wonderful mother, a great wife for my brother who loves her ... and someone with whom I can barely carry on a 10 minute conversation simply because we have very little in common, and that which we do — the family — we are interested in in totally different ways. Nancy's sweet!

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Nancy's wonderful! Nancy lives on another planet than I do!

And sometimes, yes, I'd like to see Luke bring home someone like Nancy, just to get away from all the cliches and assumptions about proper partners for Jedi and heroes.

Just call me a romantic....<g>

Re: the Jedi in all walks of life. I've always felt it would be so and perhaps that's why one aspect of the pro books, the seeming mystification of the Force and Jedi, bothers me. Personally, I can see the "active" Jedi being simply the obvious end of the philosophy ... and the ones who got cut down as the superstructure of the philosophy. Other people who before identified themselves with the Jedi might just quietly delete that line on the business cards, you know, "*Following the firmest principles of the Jedi Way in all our dealings!*" Then, when the danger had passed, the influence might become more obvious again. This is not to imply cowardice, but to recognize that lots of belief systems maintain through good and bad by nestling in the everyday life of everyday people who have little patience or time for the grand posturings of the Other Classes. "Homely magicks" have long existed and in the late 20th century, people started talking openly about them again, whether in pagan terms, in herbal terms, or ecological terms. The Force is the Force, whether celebrated by the Jedi or demonized by Palpatine; it won't go away when different terms are used.

Lots of talk/speculation about Anakin in this issue. With the reports coming out of LF these days, I suppose we all can begin to fine-tune our guesses on plot development for the first trilogy. Now that it has been announced that Anakin is Luke's age in the third movie, maybe we'll get a more definite idea of Luke's age in ANH. That would be nice. I've heard complaints from a number of areas on the idea of Anakin being so young when he goes darkside. It seems that Lucas is sticking to his interest in the Saga being a story of choices for young adults. I haven't decided what I think on the issue yet; for me, a lot will depend on what kind of life/background the characters is presented with in the movies. And what kind of assumptions are made about the mind-set of such a young man. (I certainly can't claim to first hand knowledge of being 18 and male! My very gentle brother assures me that such creatures are Extremely Volatile and simply assume they know every answer to everything in the world; if even my brother felt that way at 18, well, I'll wait for further male opinion on the matter!)

I'm certainly very curious to see how Lucas presents the relationship between Anakin and OWK, considering the comment that they were "good friends." (Just to set my stance *vis a vis* the OWK Lies About Everything position: I heard the line delivered as an aside, almost a comment for OWK by OWK alone, and not necessarily for Luke's

benefit.) For myself, having had friends 20 years older than myself from teenage years on (and not family friends, but people with whom I established friendships on my own, through common outside interests), the description of OWK and Anakin as having been friends as well as teacher and student seems normal enough. But, I can see how people who did not have the experience of friendship outside their peer group might have problems with that relationship.

Anywho, so far we have a young warrior and an older warrior, a mentor and a student. Having Vader come out of a very young man, just at the very beginning of his adult years, can support the idea of Anakin as young genius; also, the idea of Anakin as someone out on his own at a young (too young?) age. Or, given that backward planet boys fly their own planet-hoppers in this universe, Anakin might just come from someplace where in your late teens you can become a pilot. There's the other extreme, of course, that Anakin is a young man of means with a superb education gotten early, but then, wouldn't he have also come to the attention of the Jedi earlier ... or did the wars provide the opportunity of isolation that allowed OWK his experiment in training that failed so badly?

Still on the subject of Anakin and OWK — Oh god, here I go again, feeling like odd-woman out — I cannot for the life of me see how the only interpretation of "your father wanted you to have this [light saber]" is a lie. Are my friends the only ones who sat around, speculating about the future, saying things like, "I want my kid to have X; and I want my kid to know Y; and if I can't do it, I hope my friends will do Z for my kid?"

I have no trouble at all visualizing a young man telling a good friend, or a teacher, or just a comrade in arms, that he'd like his kid to have his light saber when old enough should he not be there to use it himself. Jedi knights live violent lives, calling violence unto themselves. Maybe such a discussion was a necessary part of training in the old days. Anakin didn't even have to have a kid already to think about such things; I know my friends and I hadn't had kids yet and still we were aware of mortality. Years later, Kenobi might well cherish the memory — a good one out of all the bad — and even mythologize it for himself, as people will when all they have left of a friend are remembered conversations. He mentions trying to give it away before, but Owen wouldn't allow it; once he has Luke in his house, it's a natural thing to do.

Thinking about Kenobi further: *he* certainly blames himself for "causing" Vader, which is a measure of his own pride and how long it has lasted, despite the years. But just because he indulges himself in self-pity, why do so many arguments take his feeling as fact? In the end, the only person who "caused" Vader to happen was Anakin Skywalker. Kenobi could have stood on the top of the



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tallest building in the galactic core, making a total ass of himself, and that wouldn't "make" anyone do anything anyone didn't want to do.

For a long time, arguments have been made in favor of Vader's "integrity," his honesty to himself. Well, integrity, consistency with oneself, is a fairly amoral characteristic when you think about it. A person can be honest to himself about wanting to do perfectly horrible things and can "never waver" from his decided path to conquer the world, no matter who it hurts. It's almost as if we prefer someone who never wavers, even from an ugly path, to someone who tries and errs and tries again, despite knowing that he is not perfect. Kenobi is certainly not perfect and never was in the movies I saw, but all this assumption that he indeed is the cause of it all and that everything he does is twisted and self-serving sometimes seems like an effort to avoid the bittersweet understanding that to live is to muck up and have to clean up your mess — unlike the Vaders and Palpatines who never admit they've made a mess.

Hmmm. Maybe I've been listening to Dr. Laura too long. Gad, can you imagine her analysis of the situations in SW?!

## FASHION STATEMENT

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Hi, everybody ... especially all you riotous MWers — what a wicked, wonderful group of people ... some more wicked than others. And for everyone who couldn't come: start saving your money now for MediaWest next year! Thanks to Cheree and everyone else for making it such a wild weekend full of chocolate, gossip, stories and laughter. And thanks also to everybody for voted for my story (can I say this or is it a commercial?) "The Art of Jedi" in the STAR aWARDs — it was so exciting to receive an Honorable Mention certificate, masterminded by Judy Yuenger. Congratulations to Judy for her highly deserved award for everything she does for fandom!

Susan Garrett's article about SASE's is a good explanation. I've been in fandom long enough to know SASEtiquette, but I wish I'd read this article years ago.

Judy Yuenger's character biographies are interesting and much easier to use for reference than always trying to find them on the screen saver. But what is this business about Obi-Wan "whispering away" with Anakin's wife? Did he talk her to death or what? I think I see George Lucas' wayward thesaurus lurking about the screensaver bios....

Hi, Marti. Have you had any takers for the son you tried to give away in the last issue of SE? I'll put in a good word: Ladies, I've seen his picture, and he's a doll.

Laura: Great assessment of the Dark, tortured Luke, singlehood, etc. In the films, Luke is very independent and not an emotionally clinging person; I can readily see that he could remain unattached through his life. I don't know why so many people see that as negative, though I suspect much of the reaction is based on an unwillingness to be associated with a "societal abnormality" — particularly one that is as tempting as singlehood. ("Singlehood" came from George's thesaurus...)

I agree that Han in ROTJ is practically a throw-away; I explain it to myself by saying that his mind was damaged by the torture device used on him in Cloud City.

Marlene: The best thing about those novels is that Lucas has finally said they're not canon! So I can quite happily disregard the lovelorn Luke of the books (though for someone lovelorn, he certainly made very few efforts to find and hold onto a woman) and keep him a mysterious, mystic single, dedicated to a life of philosophical meanderings.

Louise: Hope you had a good trip home and didn't meet any tornadoes. I like your description of Luke's ROTJ clothes as "unusual and outlandish", and I enjoy the different fanfic stories about how and why he decided on them and where he found them. He's definitely making a fashion statement, but what he's saying was probably open to interpretation by his compatriots — as well as by us.

Maggie: The Jedi are quite a mystery. I enjoyed your comparison of Jedi with nuns — be inconspicuous and do good works. It's difficult then to incorporate the Jedi Knight with the Jedi "monk". Jedi Knights must have been heroic, galaxy-famous warriors, brilliant starpilots — Luke knows the term "Jedi Knight" (and scoffs at the notion his father might have been one of The Few, The Proud, The ... Jedi Knights) while he's completely unfamiliar with the term "The Force" ... he knows the aggressive significance but not the religious. Does he share the common knowledge of his peers — or, most unlikely, did Owen and Beru tell him stories of the Jedi Knights? I suppose the new trilogy will give us details, and let's hope that the movies remain consistent with what we know so far.

And congratulations to Susan on selling two (!) novels — way to go!

Tim: You asked what role Darth can play in the last (never to be done) trilogy? He's coming back — spirit or flesh, he'll be there to advise his grandkids, see how his morose, brooding, tortured, single son is getting along, and save the galaxy from doom... Darth is a Hero!

Happy summer, everyone.



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## SHEEPISH EXPRESSION

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May 1, 1996

Boy, where do I start? I suppose I could say “hi” very sheepishly with my head hung low and my eyes gazing up with a “forgive me?” expression. But, seriously, I never intended to take a break from fandom and SE, never intended to stall replies to letters for weeks, months, years... Never intended a lot of things — especially hurting those who I hope I can still call friends by never being around anymore... It’s difficult to give a reason without it sounding like a paltry excuse for my poor behavior but...

These past couple of years have been strange to say the least. Firstly, I was grappling with depression all the time I contributed to SE, but I got help with that and have been able to live with and cope with the main reason for that depression.

Secondly, as I was emerging from depression, I met a guy. Simple as that! It was *Star Wars*’ fault, too — Lisa Cowan introduced me to Louise (or rather sent me her address), Louise introduced me to Karen, and Karen introduced me to David. And that was that. Hook, line and sinker. We have basically been living in each other’s pockets ever since. We bought an apartment and moved in together (note my new address — yep, same street but different house and postcode! My parents still live at No. 19) almost a year to the day after we met and we are now approaching our second anniversary. Oh, and we got engaged on February 14.

Anyway, these two years have been frantic to say the least! The house ate up all our cash (needed refurbishment) and there is *still* work to be done! My word processor died. Work has hotted up — a lot more disturbed and abused kids than ever! Anyway, a lot of stuff happened — some good, some not so good — too much to relate here. Time just flew by and I suddenly realized I hadn’t written anything since I met David. It’s not his fault! I just haven’t had the time or inclination (or cash) since I met him and finished my last story “Legitimate Target” (a kind of follow up to “Missing”, which is in *Bad Feeling, Too*) in May of 1994. In that I kinda vomited out a lot of my rotten feelings and some of my better ones, too. I felt kinda used up ... but happy.

Anyway, David has been nagging at me to get back into

SW, to start writing again and to tip my toes back into the water. To this end we have just purchased a PC so that I *have* to write or do *something* to warrant such an expensive toy! So, here I am — if you’ll have me back? ((Ed: *Treena — welcome back! And congrats on your engagement!*)))

I borrowed the last few issues of SE from Louise to catch up on the gossip, et al, but it’s only #44 that I’ve compiled any answers to. It’s been fun — in a way — a bit like getting on a bike after not riding one for years. Slow and rusty to start with, but something kicks in and you balance out!

Right, here goes ... steady now...

Marti: David is sitting beside me telling me to grovel to you and apologize profusely for not writing back. As I said above, this was not intentional but it was my fault and no one else’s. I guess I got closeted up in my own wee world and was selfish to the point of excluding all others. It’s only now, with life starting to settle a little, that I’m coming round to the fact that I no longer need to hide away and protect what I’ve found, that I once had friends whom I could share my happiness instead of holding it to me. Also that those friends perhaps have needed me and I’ve not been there. I’m sorry, Marti.

Propaganda: It would probably take decades for Imperial indoctrination to be proved wrong for some. Never for others. Look at our own history. Nazism — still going strong all over the globe and not only with those who were fed it during Hitler’s regime, but with many young people who have become disillusioned with present governments. Japan — many still don’t accept the cruelty inflicted upon prisoners of war. The Khmer Rouge. The Viet Cong, etc. etc. Jeez, even our own government feed us propaganda which will linger on.

But, of course, Ben knew that Owen and Beru were in trouble. The very line, “Wait, Luke! It’s too dangerous!” suggests that he knew the stormtroopers would be headed the Lars’ way. He takes the trouble to point out to Luke that *Stormtroopers* shot up the Sandcrawler after Luke has mentioned that “These are the same Jawas that sold us Artoo and Threepio”. It was as though he was telling Luke to “wake up and smell the roses.” But, then, why did he tell Luke to wait? Hmmm ... I’ve been away too long.

M. J. Mink: Sorry, can’t agree that Vader was fighting defensively. In ROTJ, maybe, but certainly not in TESB. He was testing Luke out, gauging his skills and reactions, taking things easy to start with. But, there is no way that, once they reached the levels under the carbon freezing chamber, that Vader was on the defense. That was an all out attack! He gave Luke hell, just for the sake of it. He knew that Luke was no match for him, but by God he was teaching the boy a lesson he’d never forget. Taking his hand — which could be seen as an attack — looks more to

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me like a man tired of fighting and wanting it to end, but also like a father trying to bring himself to not kill his son ... but, again ... I've always thought that Vader's feelings for Luke didn't surface (or the stirrings of Anakin) until Luke chose death rather than join his father.

But in ROTJ, yes. Vader was on the defense. He was utterly outmatched by Luke's power but he was also emotionally crippled by Luke reversing the tables on him. "Come with me..." It speaks volumes.

Anyway, that's only my humble thoughts...

Laura Virgil: Where was I when... I was eleven years old at primary school and nearing puberty. My mother took me to see SW because she wanted to see it! Luke stepped onto the screen — and boy, did those hormones erupt! (Haven't I mentioned this before?) My mother regrets taking me...

Elegant weapons: I'm sorry, but in the wake of the Dunblane massacre, not to mention the recent Tasmanian massacre, I cannot consider *any* weapon elegant. It's a sore point...

Pro novels and all new material from Lucas: Well, hasn't this topic stirred it up among us all? I'd like to say that I could sit on the fence on this. But, I can't. The materialistic side to Lucasfilm has tarnished the Saga for me. It seems it's all about money — yes, I know that films were made to make money, but they're gotten greedy. And, as a fan, I feel exploited, or rather my pocket. I just can't persuade my pocket to part with any cash for the new novels, basically because I don't want to spend any more money on trash! I'm not against new materials, new ideas — I love fan fiction, after all — but the stories are pretty awful, the characterizations just *feel* wrong. I stopped after *Truce at Bakura* (which I quite liked) because when I read the blurb on the books, none appealed to me. It's my own personal choice and I don't berate those who do like them, or those who want to write pro SW. I just feel the fun isn't there anymore. Also, unlike fan writers (and I include those of us who have been writing pro-SW) most of the authors are writing for money — not out of love for the saga and its characters. There's no passion in the books.

In fact, I've sold most of my collection to finance some of the work on the house — I don't miss it. I suppose my perceptions have changed somewhat over the last couple of years — I'm not as materialistic as I once was. In some ways, though, I feel lost in this new SW galaxy...

Z.P.: Hi! It's me. Read what I wrote to Marti, 'cause a lot of it applies to you, too. Sorry...

Where did Luke learn during the years between Yavin and Hoth? Why, with the Alliance, of course! He grew up (somewhat), he matured, learned discipline (to a certain degree), learned to lead men, etc. — all skills a Jedi would need. As for between TESB and ROTJ, well, he learned

from Bespin, from his mistakes, from the thrashing that Vader gave him. He would have taken everything that had happened, put them into some sort of perspective and learned from them.

Yeah, *Braveheart*! What a movie! It was historically incorrect all over the place — Lowlanders didn't wear kilts and Wallace was a Lowlander. That's Highland dress. Scots in that time period didn't paint their faces — that was the Celts in an earlier time. I could go on, but I'm prepared to overlook these faults as the *spirit* of the movie was so ... Scottish! The humor was Scottish! And it finally showed to the world how brutal the English have been to the Scots/Irish/Welsh over the centuries. I am not anti-English — I have many English friends, but, the Scots were/are a nation unto themselves who have been governed by people we did not elect. It's time we had a say in our own affairs. As Wallace said, "Freedom!"

Oh, by the way, Wallace was born in the town of Elderslie (some say it was Ellerslie) which is about 10 miles from Kilbirnie. Louise is even closer. And full marks to Mel Gibson on his Scottish accent — it was pure Glasweign.

Mary Jo Fox: I was really sorry to read that you are leaving but confused as to why? Surely not over this old/new banter? That's part of the fun of SE. We shouldn't take any of this seriously. Why fight when we all love the same thing — but perhaps different aspects of the same thing. It doesn't make sense. Leaving because of "petty squabbles" is silly. Stay, Mary Jo.

Matthew Whitney: Prequel — that's exactly how I view the new novels. I cannot accept them/West End games as canon. To me the movies (and the books of the movies) are canon. I rarely go to other sources of information.

Debbie: Hi!

Louise: Perhaps of all my friends among fandom, you were the most dear and the one I've let down the most. Again, I didn't mean it. My life changed and priorities shifted after meeting David. You know this. I can only publicly say that I'm sorry for letting you down and for leaving you to work on things that I had said I would share. We are getting together a little more often now and I hope this continues. I've honestly missed you.

And, in response to your comments, Here! Here!

John Fredericks: Re Luke and aggression. You said Luke would avoid killing at all cost. Which Luke are you talking about? The Luke after ROTJ would, yes, revere life and kill only when absolutely necessary. But the Luke in ANH... He was totally gungho! Luke at the scene in the detention center, he blasts everything in sight and once everyone is dead, he grabs hold of one of the bodies and drags it off the console. That was a complete disregard of life, of a man whom he (or Han) had just killed. (It reminds me of how the kids now view violence and death

— they think it's neat! And the nastier it is, the better.) Not once did we see Luke show remorse for anyone/anything he killed — though you could argue that later, once things had died down he reflected on what he had done. Question: did he really have to kill the Gamorrean guards when he entered Jabba's palace? They hadn't attacked him. They merely blocked his way.

Tim Blaes: I'll get that hug yet! If you're at MWC this year, watch out for Louise — give her the hug!

And that's it! I hope that I can become a regular contributor once more, not only to SE but to zines. I've still got a bit of writer's block, but I think I may be getting over it. Anyway, apologies again to those who have written to me and never got a reply — I never intended to be ignorant. I was in love and nothing else mattered. I'm still in love, but waking up to reality!

Geez, it feels good to be back...

## AN EPIPHANY OF SORTS

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MediaWest went by too fast. Yeah, I know MWC always goes by fast, but for me it *really* zoomed by. It seems I wasn't the only attendee there with a record low of spending money. That's okay, in a way, because there seemed to be a record low number of new zines for sale. Depending on who you asked, most of the dealers did alright. But all around, it seemed an atypical con this year.

Not long ago I picked up a *MAD Magazine* special, reprinting all of their SW material, including the Sergio Aragones cartoon Cheree reprinted in SE43. Sure enough, the initials "W.C." were on the original. Just what are they supposed to stand for? Wookiee Commode? Weird Creatures? ((Ed: *Probably Water Closet, a common euphemism for toilet.*))

Hey! How about this for a SW "urban legend"? Someone meets a *terrible fate* by using an alien toilet. File this one along with laser bidet accidents.

Though I still don't know how he'd stash it between time, perhaps Luke uses the Kaiburr Crystal as a paperweight on his desk at the Jedi Academy.

Two more cross-universe scenarios:

*Beauty and the Beast/Gargoyles*: The parallels between the shows are obvious to anyone who's seen them both. Vincent and Goliath would be bound to bump into each other sooner or later. Catherine and Elisa are just as likely to cross paths in their line of work.

*Forever Knight/Touched by an Angel*: Because the light and dark need each other. And because I'm twisted enough to suggest it.

It has occurred to me that there might be more than one way for a Jedi to go Dark besides becoming a megalomaniac. What if a Jedi came down with chronic depression? I'm not sure I'd want to be around a strong Force-user in the grip of despair. Unconsciously they might affect their environment, alter local laws of probability, and negatively affect Force-sensitives. What if a Jedi went undiagnosed with a brain tumor? Suffered from manic depression? Multiple personality? Pregnancy? Too much coffee in the morning?

M. J. Mink: If everybody knew the Emperor was a Force user, it would be harder for him to manipulate people.

Jacqueline Taero: L&L's mother bumped off by a nanny? Talk about "the hand that rocks the cradle!"

Laura Virgil: Where was I when SW opened? Still in high school, trying to keep a low profile, but not succeeding. I was borderline SF/fantasy fan before then, but it wasn't until after SW that I *realized* how much I liked it. An epiphany of sorts.

Oh, I fully understand that artists have to be able to sell their work at the MWC auction. But why is it that "floating heads", obviously lifted from photos are what sells best? And why is it that previously unpublished art seldom includes publishing rights? It seems to me the publishing rights should be listed as "negotiable" if the buyer spends \$\$\$ on a work and would like to use it in a zine s/he publishes, and the artist still gets a contributor's copy of the zine. Why should the artist object? Something could be worked out.

Believe me, I have *nothing* against sexy/sensual artwork. I wish I could illustrate some of the dreams that dance a fandango through my libido. I'm sure I could sell *some* of them at MWC.

I remember riding along with Judith Low to my first MWC. We were talking about the SW radio show. Then, just as we were entering Lucas County, an episode that I hadn't heard before began playing on the radio. Don't you just love dancing the ol' synchronicity tango?

Actually, stop-motion artists *were* used in *Jurassic Park*. Special articulated models, wired into the computer, were used to program motion instructions into CGI dinosaurs. So the old skills meld into the new.

Z. P. Florian: Luke's mom morphing into Old Pruneface? Eeeuw!!! If that happened during an "intimate moment", it could be enough to drive anyone to the Celibate Side of the Force!

The title of the second ST movie was to be *The Vengeance of Khan*, but Lucasfilm insisted they change it because it was too similar to *Revenge of the Jedi*. We all

know how things finally happened. I can't help but suspect the whole thing was a set up.

Last issue I recommended some comics. I may as well mention a couple of books. First, the anthology *Chicks in Chainmail*, edited by Esther Friesner (who is responsible for the title, she insists) is a collection of what the editor terms "Amazon Comedy". I think my favorite story is "The Stone of War and the Nightingale's Egg" by Elizabeth Ann Scarborough, a reputedly true account, pitting a Chinese emperor's palace guard against the royal harem. Guess which side wins. I also liked "Exchange Program" by Susan Schwartz, in which Hillary Clinton dies and finds herself in Valhalla, where she takes the Valkyries under her wing and puts both Wodin and his boorish son Thor in their places. Don't worry. Hillary gets better.

If *The Omen* had been written by Monty Python, produced by Steven Spielberg, and directed by Ron Howard, the result might be very much like the book *Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch*, by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett. It turns out the Antichrist, who is eleven years old, loves his dog (even though it's really a Satanic hell-hound under all that scruffy hair), really cares about the environment and is the sort of boy anyone would be proud to have as a son. He also doesn't think this Armageddon thing is such a good idea. The book also has "a full chorus of Tibetans, Aliens, Americans, Atlanteans, and other rare and strange Creatures of the Last Days." It has wonderful footnotes and the Four Motorcyclists of the Apocalypse are really cool.

Marlene Karkoska: The prequel movies could still set up who the future Mrs. Skywalker could be. Do you think Luke and Leia are the only children of the Jedi hidden away from the purge? And Yoda's "other hope" has never been conclusively ascertained.

While reading *The Young Jedi Knights: The Lost Ones*, I nearly fell out of my seat. On the last page of chapter nine, Leia reads Jacen, Jaina and Anakin a bedtime story, "The Little Lost Bantha Cub"! No mention of poop on Luke's boots, though. Maybe I should start making predictions for the *National Enquirer*.

The whole Church of Ford business was unpleasant but I don't think it should be forgotten or downplayed to new fen. Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it.

Louise Turner: With who knows how many "little Empires" forming after Palpatine's death, galactic politics could become more baroque than ever. One of these little Empires might still regard the New Republic as a bunch of rowdy rebel yahoos, yet some of their nearby "allies" might make them nervous. Just who do you trust and how far?

Actually, books are frequently revamped. Steven

King's *The Stand* was reissued with material originally edited out. Robert A. Heinlein's *Podkayne of Mars* was released not long ago with the original downbeat ending. Ben Dunn has stopped reprinting the first three issues of his comic *Ninja High School* because he plans to totally redo them, which I think is a big mistake. I tried telling Dunn "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" but he won't listen and Lucas won't either.

Catriona Campbell: With luck, by the time you read this, you'll finally have a look at "McBubba". I finally had some photos made and brought them to MWC for Louise to carry back with her. Louise said, "I have something from Catriona for you." Just the way she said that made me nervous, like I was about to get a pie in the face or something. With incredible swiftness, she wrapped her arms around me and squeezed! My eyes bulged! My ears popped! All air was instantly evacuated from my lungs! I think it was her idea of a "hug". I swear, the woman is part praying mantis!

Maggie Nowakowska: It doesn't sound like the footage restored to *Hidden Fortress* eliminated the "verbal connect with ANH" as much as the redone subtitles. As I sit here on the edge of anime/manga fandom, I observe that no translation of the Japanese language will satisfy everyone. The SW movies don't have this problem, though. Did the earlier print ever reach video?

Cheryl Pryor: Leather Barbie? That one isn't sold in stores, is it? Idea for next year: Auditions for position of Mary Sue.

John Fredericks: Just when the pro Trek novels started to get good (about 10 years ago), policies were instituted, supposedly in Roddenberry's name, that drove the best authors away. There are only a handful of authors that can lure me into buying a new ST novel. Peter David is one. *The Captain's Daughter* would have made a better movie than the one Demora first appeared in. I'm still hoping they'll get Diane Duane to do a Leia trilogy.

I don't want to set the world on fire; I just want to light a flame in your heart...



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## HAVEN'T WE SUFFERED ENOUGH?

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Hello, everybody.

That rumor about Kenneth Branagh playing young OWK has surfaced yet again. Please God don't let it be true! Why do so many people think this guy can act? Is there some sort of mass hypnosis going on? He *can't* act!

We had another One Day SW Con here last November. Michael Sheard (Admiral Ozzel), Peter Diamond, Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett) and Declan Mullholland were the guests. I sat with Michael Sheard for a couple of hours while he signed autographs. He's a really nice bloke and he never got bored or tired of the same questions. I asked him if he didn't get annoyed at being offered the same roles over and over (he always plays officious "Nazi" types) but he didn't seem to mind. He told me that he's played Hitler and Himmler 3 times each. I put my foot in it when he asked me if SW fans and *Dr. Who* fans crossover. I said, "Some fans like both but not me. I think *Dr. Who* is rubbish." To which he said, "Because I was in a few *Dr. Who* stories." Oops!

Just in case anyone's wondering — Declan Mullholland was the original humanoid Jabba.

The SW Special Editions: Well, according to the internet, Howard Roffman has revealed what will be in the special editions. The additions to ANH seem okay and apparently TESB won't get much, but ROTJ has a number of strange additions. At the end of the movie, we're supposed to see celebrations on Bespin, Tatooine and Coruscant! Well, I'd love to see Coruscant but it'll seem a bit anomalous to have a scene on a planet that hasn't appeared previously in the story. What would be best is if we see Coruscant earlier in the film, perhaps a scene showing the Emperor preparing to leave Coruscant for the Death Star ("Where's my toothbrush?"). Actually, it'd be good if they added a scene where he's doing something really nasty — biting the heads off baby Ewoks, perhaps.

Apparently, there will be more scenes with Max Rebo, et al. Haven't we suffered enough?

My wish list for the special editions would be:

ANH: Restore all the Biggs scenes and clean up some of the FX shots. Plus, give Chewie a medal.

TESB: Redo a couple of the matte paintings of Cloud City.

ROTJ: Remove as many shots as possible of Max Rebo & Band and the sillier antics of the Ewoks.

But from the sound of it, none of my wishes will come true. Nevertheless, I'm really looking forward to seeing the special editions. And I reckon they'll do massive business at the box office. Much more than anyone expects. There's a whole generation of fans who have never seen the movies on the big screen. My bet is that they'll have to make hundreds of new prints just to keep up with the demand and by the end of the year they'll be the biggest earners of 1997. There's nothing that compares with the SW trilogy.

On the subject of the next trilogy, I think Lucas may be making a mistake if he tries doing all the FX with CGI. I just don't think CGI spaceships look as good as real models. But I suppose the advantage is that CGI shots are more easily manipulated.

Maggie: What's *Hidden Fortress*? I don't think I've heard about this.

The Essential Guide to SW Characters: This book really pissed me off. Now I know some of you are tired of hearing the pro authors being trashed but this is a reference book, so I can't stay silent on the matter. The book is a complete mess. The most annoying thing is the total absence of source references. At some point in nearly every entry, I found myself asking, "Well, where did that happen?" Mr. Mangels doesn't say. All he needed to do was number the bibliography in the back of the book and then apply those numbers to the main text for reference.

There isn't any entry for a Marvel character and yet characters like Bodo Bass and Mako Spince are in there.

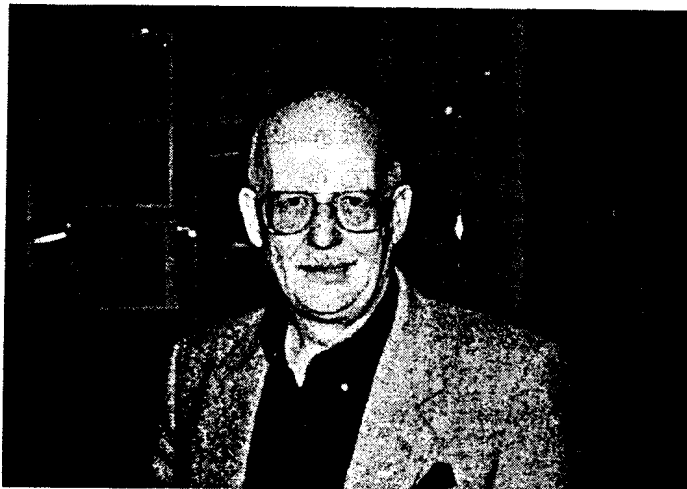
It's very muddled with the continuity of events. For instance, in the Lando entry the story from Marvel SW #56 and #57 is said to take place after ROTJ, but in Lobot's entry, it takes place *before* ROTJ. And there are lots more gaffs like this.

At least the revised *Guide to the SW Universe* indicated what was official and un-official info. This book just relates everything as if it's gospel.

Am I being too critical? Perhaps this isn't meant to be a reference book. Maybe it's just for the average fan who wants to learn a bit more about his favorite characters. Okay. So, the average fan will buy it, read the entry on his fave character, and think "I wonder where that happened — I'd love to read that story. Dammit! It don't say!"

Well, it seems to me that Lucasfilm has dropped their policy of making a distinction between canon and non-canon material. It's all mixed up together now. The Widevision cards use info invented by spin-off authors, etc. The pro authors say that they've been told everything in WEG is okay to use. In the past when fans complained about the errors in WEG, Lucasfilm said that it wasn't canon material so don't worry about it, but what do they say now?

I'm not trying to argue that all the spin off material



Michael Sheard (Admiral Ozzel)

Star Wars Collector's Day

Chestnut, England

December 1995

Photos by Gerald Crotty



Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett)



Declan Mulholland (the original  
human Jabba the Hutt in ANH)

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should fit together with everything else in one perfect continuity. I'm saying the opposite. They can never all fit together so it's best if the canon and non-canon material is clearly distinguished.

Maybe I'm being too pedantic. Maybe I should just take it as entertainment. But I feel very strongly that the SW trilogy is the best story ever and I love those characters. I don't want to see those characters and stories exploited and spoiled. *I am not against pro authors doing spin off stories*, but, more and more, Lucasfilm is trying to convince us that these spin off stories are for real and I find that it corrupts the story and characters of the movies. I mean — is *Shadow of the Empire* a canon story? People seem to think it is.

Laura Virgil: On the subject of the "Dark tortured Luke" — I'm not concerned about whether he needs to get married or not, but I am bored with this "Dark Luke" we get, particularly in *Dark Empire*. My feeling is that Jedis have a lot more humor than most writers seem to think. Yoda and Ben certainly did. I think Luke would, too. It'd be a weird sense of humor which would surprise people who had preconceptions about Jedis. I don't think he'd be singularly focused on Jedi Knight business either. Being a Jedi is important but it wouldn't eclipse everything he was for the first 20 years of his life. I think he'd spend a lot more time with the pilots and tech crews. That's where his first love is. Has anyone read *Illusions* by Richard Bach? Well, I think Luke would have a lot of the qualities of Donald Shimoda. Being a Jedi doesn't necessarily change your personality. Luke's a very likeable person. I think he'll remain that way.

Z. P. Florian: Thinking about all the family relationships which were revealed in TESB and ROTJ raises a lot of questions which I don't suppose will ever be answered. We've talked about Luke and Leia. And what about Owen? We thought he was Luke's father's brother, then in the ROTJ novel, he's revealed to be Ben's brother. But was he related at all to Anakin? In ANH, Ben says "Your uncle didn't hold with your father's ideals," etc., which makes it sound like Owen was family or a very close friend. Can we assume that Owen was not Force sensitive?

New Jabba: Well, I just saw a photo of the digital Jabba in ANH and he doesn't look right at all. He looks real enough but not the same as the one in ROTJ.

Tim Blaes: I've always liked the idea of TV crossovers but it rarely seems to happen. I'd really like to see Mulder and Scully meet up with Kolchak. He'd still be trying to get a story published. *Nowhere Man* meets *The Prisoner* would be good, too. Yes, Patrick McGoohan is still alive.

Kyle McLachlan is currently doing commercials here for mobile phones. The ads parody the *X-Files* with McLachlan playing the Mulder character.

*The Illustrated SW Universe* is a beautiful book. My

favorites are the paintings of Coruscant and Alderaan. His sense of space and light are amazing. I'm not sure how to regard the text, though. I guess Anderson has taken it from different sources. One interesting point is that Anderson indicates the rebels left Yavin a few days after ANH. Now I'd go along with this; I always had a problem with the Marvel comics and newspaper strips 'cause they had the rebels stay on Yavin until they moved to Hoth nearly 3 years later. That seems pretty unlikely. I can excuse the Marvel issues to some degree because they were written before TESB, but Goodwin's newspaper strips were written *after* TESB. But I detest most of the pre-TESB Marvels because of the dreadful artwork and love the Goodwin strips for Al Williamson's glorious pictures.

Well, that's all for now.

## DEAD BOTHANS AND THE DARK LORD

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VISIONS - WDCA 20 (a "pro" media con organized by a local independent TV station) was held in Lanham, Maryland on March 24, 1996. The SW guests (especially imported for the occasion) were Dave Prowse and Peter Mayhew. (There were several other noteworthy guests, primarily from various of the Trex, but this isn't a Trek letterzine, 'nuff said.) Each of the guests individually had a question and answer session, and each was also scheduled for autograph availability.

The Dead Bothan Society attended in force. Special thanks to Social Director Debbie Kittle, without whom I would never have realized this con was taking place (it was fabulously badly advertised) or believed it would actually be worth attending. Thanks for getting us all organized once again, Debbie!

Right after the con, I jotted down some quick notes, and then forgot all about doing a proper write-up. Now it's months later (AUGH) and I've only just found the diskette with my notes, so my apologies for the admitted unevenness of the following con report.

In order of appearance: When Dave Prowse was introduced, despite loud and enthusiastic applause, there was a large, unflattering expanse of empty seats immediately in front of the stage area. (This was because the con organizers had overestimated the eagerness of fans to pay gigabucks extra for the privilege of sitting in the "reserved seats," especially when the presentation space was fairly, er, small and intimate, no matter where you sat.) Straightway he invited everyone in the audience to move

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closer — and of course, we all surged forward eagerly. Mr. Prowse started with a precis of his acting career. He began as a bodybuilder, but early on he was told he shouldn't compete any more for the "Mr. Universe" title because his feet were ugly! He has toured as a "strong man" (tearing phone books in two and bending metal bars with his bare hands and whatnot). He has spent many years (14) as the official representative of the British "Green Cross" children's safety program (a multimedia campaign which teaches young pedestrians how to cross the road properly) all over the UK and the Commonwealth nations, and he is clearly proud of this activity. With regard to SW, he was offered a choice between the role of Vader or Chewbacca by Lucas himself. He immediately chose Vader, the powerful and fascinating villain. TESB was his favorite movie. He did most of his own stunts, by preference, except for the chase/duel on the gantry in TESB. The duel on the gantry was taken over by "x" (I missed the name, sorry) who is a fencing champion in real life. (The same man handled the reprise scene between Vader and Luke in ROTJ.) Though on the whole he likes to do his own stunts, having an expert swordsman do those particular scenes made him (Prowse) look good, a fine professional tribute. On the subject of having all his lines redubbed by James Earl Jones, Mr. Prowse said he did not find out until a friend cabled him after premiere of the movie in LA that his own voice had been eliminated. He has (to my American ear) a lovely, lilting speech pattern, which he told us is called a "West Country" accent. However, his natural regional accent wasn't the reason somebody else did Darth Vader's voice-overs. That was a LucasFilm decision. (To demonstrate that he could've spoken for himself, Mr. Prowse gave us a "CNN" pitch in a perfectly-inflected BBC announcer's voice, in resonant tones pitched down to J.E. Jones' deep range.) He said that it was very hot inside the Vader suit (much of it was padded leather, and the whole thing weighed about 40 pounds without the cape). The helmet was too large, so they kept adding pads to adjust the fit, and then during the shooting the producers kept trying to make sure his real face wouldn't show, further reducing Prowse's field of vision (he had trouble seeing his marks) and ability to breathe properly. He did have to learn all the lines in the script; but he knew at a minimum (due to helmet/padding/inaudibility) all his words would have to be looped (re-recorded in studio). Knowing that no matter what he said, it would have to be redone later, he devoted a certain amount of energy trying to "corpse" (break up) other the actors. Apparently, with some success. He told us that what he actually said during filming of the pursuit of the *Falcon* in TESB was, "Hemorrhoids do not concern me..." He claimed (with a delightfully wicked grin) that certain letters in "Sith" can be (and have been)

transposed... He was still going strong when his Q&A session drew to a close. At the end, he said that many celebrities pass through his gym in London Bridge — stop by any time for a cuppa [tea] if you're in the area, he's always glad to chat — when he's in; he has a very busy schedule. In conclusion (though I am not a Vader fan) I will say that David Prowse is one HECKUVA good lookin' guy, with immense presence, great shoulders (a particular weakness of mine, yum), carries himself just beautifully — and is terrifically pleasant to the fans.

Peter Mayhew — all 7 foot 5 inches of him — sat down for his talk, because the overhead (the con was held in a ghastly low-ceilinged, echoic underground cinderblock & cement facility, evocative of Dr. Strangelove-era institutional bomb shelters) was too low for him to make hand gestures safely. When he was first introduced, he stepped up next to Dave Prowse (who is no midget, either of height or breadth). Even standing next to "Darth Vader," "Chewbacca" looked like a real tall guy. Then a merely average human (the convention emcee) stood next to him, and true scale registered. Yes, he is *very* tall. And he is another incredibly nice fellow. At first, he spoke rather quietly and even seemed a little shy (he doesn't seem to be as experienced at public appearances as Mr. Prowse) but he soon got into the spirit of things. He has great bushy winged eyebrows, either one of which, alone, could probably get a job as a stand-in for an Ewok. Once in a while he would make some gesture with his hands (he talks with his hands quite a bit, in quick graceful gestures) or body, and suddenly the character of Chewbacca would materialize for an instant. He told us one of his first jobs was cleaning the top cupboards for his mother — even when he was young, his height influenced the kind of work he did. Mr. Mayhew's favorite SW movie was ROTJ. He didn't do the vine-swinging stunt himself. That was being filmed in Bigfoot country, and he was wary of shotguns... (He snuck this comment in with such a mild twinkle in his eye that it took a moment for his gentle bit of leg-pulling to register with the audience.) He spoke warmly and at length of his respect and liking for Sir Alec Guinness. He said he got on well with Harrison Ford. He felt a bit of a generation gap with Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill. Asked for anecdotes, he thought for a moment and said that all the "small people" in ROTJ stayed in one hotel, about 100 of them. Apparently, they demolished the hotel — but they had a wonderful time. He thinks several marriages came of it in the end... In TESB, he didn't actually choke Lando, that was a bit of stage business and good acting by Billy Dee Williams. He said it was difficult doing the scene with the 3-D animated chess game in ANH, because there was nothing at all on the table (when they filmed the live action) to react to. He didn't mind Chewbacca being petted by Han Solo after hiding in the smuggling



compartments (in ANH); Mr. Mayhew smiled and said that it was “like patting your dog on the head after he’s run off and come home again because he’s hungry.” On the role of Chewbacca in general, he enjoyed being able to define the character himself. Lucas and the others soon stopped giving him direction, because they liked what he was doing. He felt a strong link with the character from the start. Some bits of Chewbacca’s characterization were his own idea, like his roar when Han gets frozen. Sometimes, on his own behalf, he’d be saying, get on with it, get on with it, when the “humans” weren’t getting it right and it had been a long day’s shoot. That suit was hot and after a few days’ filming, none too fresh... Unlike some of the other aliens, the Wookiee costume was very quick to put on. The head was a pull-on mask, mostly he just wore some blacking around his eyes. Mr. Mayhew had only done a little film work before SW (he’d been a character in a Sinbad movie [the Minotaur in *Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger*]), SW was a very lucky break for him. The fans in Lanham, Maryland seemed to feel it had been a very lucky break for them, as well; we sent the gracious and dignified Mr. Peter Mayhew off at the end of his hour with a long and vigorous round of applause.

Later in the afternoon, Dave Prowse not only autographed a piece of artwork (proof of a zine cover featuring Lord Vader, I think it was [the cover of *A Tremor in the Force* #7]) presented to him by artist Nancy Stasulis — he also insisted on getting a copy of the art with *her* autograph — much to her delight. He also obligingly embraced Vader fan Cheryl Pryor — while the Bothan cameras clicked busily — much to *her* delight. ((Ed: See photo elsewhere in this issue.)) It was no good trying to talk to Nancy or Cheryl the rest of the day; they had been transported to Vader-fan heaven for the duration... I hope Nancy and Cheryl have written in separately to relate their experiences in as much glorious detail as bears repeating in a “G” rated letterzine...

The March “Visions” con was an unexpected, but highly satisfactory, treat for this SW fan.

MediaWest passed in the usual high speed blur of confusion, excitement, and exhaustion. I mostly pursued non-SW activities, which I won’t bother folks hereabouts with. However, I did look in on the Cantina, which gets more impressively atmospheric every year. The doll/miniature set display was once again both highly creative and truly wicked — if possible, it surpassed even the imaginative tour de force of 1995. And this year, I managed to show up in time to attend the SE party while it was still going on; that was a most pleasant and relaxed get-together.

One SW-related item of note did catch my attention whilst in Lansing. Several people were advocating the possibility of (in future) holding a separate small SW con,

the same (Memorial Day) weekend, but elsewhere (the idea being to locate close to a major urban hub for the convenience of long distance travelers). At first, I was very taken with this idea. MediaWest has gotten very large, Lansing is not the easiest/cheapest place to get to, the Holiday Inn is not (with all respect) the greatest facility available, and I’ve had my own frustrating experiences with the administrative difficulties of (to do them justice) the greatly overworked and overextended people who run MediaWest. However, after some thought, I’ve concluded that I would not go to a SW-only con IF HELD THE SAME WEEKEND. MediaWest (despite some problems) offers a unique diversity (of subject matter, of people) I would not be willing to give up. I adore SW, and SW fandom holds a special place in my life, but I value that exposure to other universes, too. Now, if somebody wants to put on a small, easily accessible, all-SW con some *other* weekend, I would definitely want to know more...

General news: Carolyn Golledge has a third story in the pipeline to West End Games, and is busily drafting a fourth. I gather (from Carolyn and Nora Meyers, both of whom have spoken directly with the editor of the *RPG Journal*) that for mysterious reasons of its own, LucasFilm has lowered the boom, and is no longer permitting West End Games to consider new submissions from authors lacking established professional credentials, so non-pros who missed the window of opportunity last summer are now out of luck. Very disappointing. Feh. Go figure.

Congratulations to Nora Meyers! who bought her very own “little yellow house in the country” (as of July 1st) out on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. What with relocation and change of phone (and possibly email) service, she may be out of touch for a while — but yes, she’s still around.

Louise Turner: You owe me an apology. I rather enjoyed your little rant on the subject of the relative quality of fan writing versus professional writing. I agreed with much of what you wrote. But I would have enjoyed it more if you had refrained from casting me as an anti-fanfic villain. You put a lot of words in my mouth (both directly and by indirect attribution) which I have never said. While your outburst may have been a reaction to the position of *somebody* who actually exists out there, you completely misrepresented my views. That is not only bad manners, it is inexcusable sloppiness, especially in a public letter coming from a scholar. Please be more accurate in dealing with your subject matter, another time. If you would like to take this up in greater detail, I suggest a more appropriate forum would be private correspondence, and not the pages of SE. My address is above. ((Ed: I agree. I don’t want disagreements to stray over into real unpleasantness and/or personal attacks, so I would suggest that this be relegated to private correspondence between those involved. Thanks.))

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Finally, thanks to all and sundry for the Star Award. I went to the award ceremony to show fannish solidarity, to bang my hands together, and to celebrate the general recognition of Cheree and Judy Y's achievements. Not only was I utterly surprised to win something, but I was filled with totally unmerited delight for the rest of the weekend. Anybody who voted for me is nuts. And I love you.

Next year we return you to truth, justice, and the people who truly do deserve to win...

Bye. See ya!

### THE BEST EVER

Debbie Kittle  
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June 1, 1996

First off, I just have to tell everyone that this year was the best ever. And I'm talking about winter. I could not have asked for a more beautifully cold or snow-filled winter than this year. I know that several people probably had some unpleasant thoughts sent my way. Too bad!!! I'm still here and I'm going to work harder to get more snow for next year. Yes, we broke records in '96 and I want to break those in '97.

And speaking of 1997, looks like we get all three movies (ANH in Feb., TESB in March and ROTJ in April) so hopefully by MW, we can all go to a local theater and watch the Trilogy together.

Some books have been released in the last several months. Some great reads have been both of the X-Wing novels and *Shadows of the Empire*. I was disappointed in *Before the Storm*. I only hope it improves.

Something exciting happened here in March. We had our first SW con in the area. It's been almost 10 years since a SW guest was here and Dave Prowse returned with Peter Mayhew. It was an absolute delight. Even finding out at the very last minute, we were able to get quite a few people to attend and we had a blast. What was really extraordinary was that both Dave and Peter walked around for the entire con and made themselves accessible to fans, meeting and greeting and doing the photo thing. It was wonderful and to know that I got to stand beside 2 people who were part of the movies that have made an impact on my life, was something I'll never forget.

Two other things that happened were that Nancy Stasulis was paid a compliment by Dave — he asked for the copy of Nancy's *Vader Tremor* #7 cover that she was

going to give a friend and asked her to sign it for him! — and then Cheryl Pryor got to lock hips and lips with Dave. And for those at MW, believe everything Nancy said about Cheryl!

Marti: Sorry, no mild winters here! It was good to see you again at MW.

Jacqueline: I don't see DV knowing he had a son. I see Anakin and Ben talking, perhaps during a lull in battle, telling his teacher that if he had a son, he'd want him to have his saber. Then they fought after Anakin went to the Dark Side. After he fell into the pit, Ben took the fallen saber and left.

I like your take on Anakin being falsely accused of killing Jedi Knights. Interesting. It throws a different light on things. Also interesting about Leia and the naming of her child Anakin vs. Bail.

Minky: I've really enjoyed the Anakin books. I like the way the author has him contemplating his life and his namesake.

Good to see you at MW. Hope you all have a great time at DragonCon.

Laura: Good to see you back in SE. I unfortunately didn't see ANH when it was first released. 2 1/2 years ago I saw it on the big screen for the first and only time at a new theater raising money for charity (and where I met Liz Sharpe for the first time). I plan to make up for what I missed in Feb. 1997! A friend took me to see TESB and I was hooked completely. In 1980, I was going to college to get a BS degree in animal science.

Agree with your comments on Luke with or without family. Nicely put. I'm sorry to read that your friend went back to that guy.

Z.P. & Minky: I'd love to read that reverse story!

Nora: Missed you at MW! Next year for sure.

Z.P.: Great MW door! Congrats on winning 2nd place with it!

Marlene: I forgot to talk to Louise at MW about having her zine printed in the US. That's something I'm sure we'll discuss. *Bad Feeling 2* is available from Louise now. She sold out at MW. Please send any orders/checks to me and I'll pass on the order to Louise.

Mary Jo: I know you really won't see this but if there's a lot of comments, I'll pass on my copy to her so she can read them. I'll miss your comments and POV's but at least I'm close enough to call you and it's not long distance.

Matthew: Agree with you on the film quality and the decrease in the green matte shots around the ships. I liked the box art until I saw the box art for the overseas version. John Alvin's 3 pieces are breathtaking and I want them on our version!! I am somewhat satisfied that the artwork is coming out on T-shirts.

How much is the galaxy controlled by the Empire? Good question and one I'd have a hard time answering. I'd



Nancy Stasulis and Dave Prowse

Photo by Debbie Kittle



Cheryl Pryor is seduced by  
the Dark Side of the Force

Photo by Debbie Kittle

have to assume a majority but we have no idea the total number of planets in this galaxy. We might get a better idea with the prequels.

Wedgie Sue: Hey! It was so good to finally meet you at MW. I was so glad you could come and that the border patrols didn't discourage you! Congrats on selling out all but 3 copies of BF1! How many panels will you be signing up for next year?

The other DH comics of X-Wing are a vast improvement over the 1st set. We know and you know that you cared more for Wedge and the squadron than LFL but it is nice that they're getting some long overdue recognition.

Maggie & Cheree: I like Cheree's idea about a pic/bio especially to see the ones who don't make it to MW.

Vader Vamp Pryor: Had a great time at MW. Have a good time at DragonCon.

John: Agree about the figures though Lando, Yoda and TIE pilot are pretty decent.

Tim: Glad you could make it MW. Sorry we had Ken wake you up on Saturday morning.

Chia Bantha? Chia Vader? Good God! Don't give Lucas any more ideas, please! There's too much stuff coming out as it is.

Before I read SE, I scan for my name, too. It gives me an idea on how long my response might be.

Belea: Good to see you and meet you at MW.

A few other comments: Congrats to all the Star aWards winners and honorable mentions. Another great year. Congrats especially go to Cheree and Judy for their other awards.

MW was nice this year but a major disappointment. Hardly any room dealers, door decorations and hall costumes. I still managed to drop a load of cash but it was just a very strange con this year.

Also Congrats to Judy and Marti on *Smelly* winning a Fan Q!

Well, that's all for now. I hope everyone has a cool summer because this Dead Bothan is going into hibernation! Fly Casually!



## FIRST LOC

Rich Gawel  
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June 21, 1996

Although I'm not a new fan, I am new to the world of fandom. There are a lot of topics of conversation, zines and people out there that I never really was aware of. SE has really helped me get in touch with what's going on.

I suppose I should introduce myself first (all these LoCs make it seem like you've all known each other for years). I first fell in love with SW when I was a whiny four-year-old begging "Ma ma ma mommmy mommmy plleeease let me see that movie!" back in that magical year of 1977. Since then, I've grown up, gone to college (at beautiful Rutgers University in the great state of New Jersey) and gotten a job as an overworked and underpaid high school English teacher, but I never outgrew my love for the trilogy. I'm now glad to be in touch with a bunch of other fans with similar stories.

Since I've only seen SE43, I'm about an issue behind on all the current topics of discussion. So, I'll hit on a couple of things from there before moving on to new topics.

First, the fandom glossary was very helpful. It decoded a lot of things in SE and in other zines I've seen. One term was especially revealing: slash. I had seen zine ads requesting work, with the rider "no slash, please." I had always assumed "slash" meant excessive, gratuitous violence, as in the many "splatter" style comic books out there. I imagined scenes like "The lightsaber *slashed* through his gut, spilling entrails and blood all over, as the stench..." etc., not being welcome whenever that fine print came up. Boy, was I wrong!

There was a second term on that list that intrigued me: the round robin story. My friends and I wrote a few stories like this back in college, often with surprising and hilarious results. We would usually break it up paragraph by paragraph, or even sentence by sentence. We had some very surreal results when we tried it word by word! In the world of fandom, though, people would have to write two or three pages at a time, just to be practical. Anyway, round robins are a lot of fun, and if anyone out there would like to get one started, I would definitely be interested.

Second, the zine listing at the end was also very helpful. I'm not very prolific but I do get the occasional story finished here and there, with varying degrees of success. Usually, there would be a change of address or a missed publication date or some other kind of snafu due to a lack

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of information on my part. This list will help solve these problems for me in the future, and I'm looking forward to SE#45 for a more up to date listing.

And now, on to something completely different. I had the unique experience of seeing Weird Al Yankovic in concert back in May at the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank, NJ. Al played all the classics ("Eat It", "My Bologna") and new hits ("Amish Paradise", "Gump"). Very funny, very entertaining, but there was one certain song he didn't play. The fans were chanting it for all night long and I was chanting along with them, naturally. Well, Al closed the show with "Fat", in full costume, but the fans wanted more! "Yoda, Yoda, Yoda, Yoda..." we chanted and, after the obligatory disappearance from the stage, Al and the boys came out for one more. Then, the familiar guitar riff ... the crowd went nuts! As the first verse began, 2000 voices were singing along: "I met him in a swamp down in Dabogah--" Yes! What a closing! It was great to see all the SW fans out there remembering and demanding this obscure little tribute to the trilogy. If Al brings the Bad Hair Tour to your town soon, check him out.

Are there any X-Philes out there? This is something Mary Jo Fox and I have written about in a couple of letters to each other. We're both Philes in addition to being SW fans, and it seems that this dual-fanship is pretty common. Even some of the "pros" out there, like Kevin Anderson and Skip Shayotovich, are involved in both universes. This led me and Mary Jo to thinking: What do the two universes have in common that has such appeal? Or, maybe the better question is, what is it about fans that makes them like both universes?

Both SW and XF have a mystical, soul-searching element that is either not as strong or completely missing from other sci-fi worlds. Mulder's search for The Truth (as in "... is out there") can ultimately be interpreted as a journey of self-discovery. The season 2/season 3 bridge definitely made this clear. Similarly, Luke's self-discovery is the primary theme of the trilogy. On another note, both universes make it clear that there is a larger "world" beyond their characters' understanding, whether it's the Force or killer cockroaches and little green men. There are episodes and stories that leave the characters (and us) hanging, without the tidy resolutions often found in other universes. Personally, I can relate to Luke and Mulder's search for meaning in themselves and in the larger, uncompromising world around them; it's my guess that most fans do too. Any comments?

One last topic before I sign off. By now, the multimedia blitz that is *Shadows of the Empire* is upon us. What do you all think? I'm enjoying the comic series. Some of the artwork (like the characters) could be better, though the spacecraft are drawn well. I really like the focus on Boba Fett (yes, I'm part of that "cult" that makes him a cult

favorite). I also enjoyed the novel. It filled in the gaps, but not all of them, but that's okay. The look inside Vader's personality and motivation is something all fans have been waiting for (though it wasn't done with the brilliant intensity some fan writers, as in *Tremor* #9, have given him). I guess Lucas didn't want to reveal too much, since Anakin will be the focus of the new Trilogy. I also like Xizor, who was a great foil for Vader, and Leia's ambivalence about her feelings for Han. However, Dash Rendar was too much like Han, and Lando was too quickly accepted into the group. I wouldn't blame him for what he did on Bespin, but wouldn't our heroes still hold some mistrust and resentment? Overall, it was enjoyable and among the best of the new novels.

That's it for now. I'm looking forward to SE45, 46 47 and so on.

COULD GO ON FOREVER...

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June, 1996

Well, here we go again. Only this time, I've been to MediaWest! Well, I could go on for hours about how much I enjoyed it, blah, blah, blah, but that seems kind of obvious. I loved meeting all of those with whom I've been corresponding for so long. It was wonderful to see you all in the flesh and I just hope I can make it again next year. Other highlights? The FOE cantina and the Star Awards, of course. Oh, and seeing Gerald's art for "A.W.O.L." (*A Tremor in the Force* #9) for the first time. And the cardinal birds and the French toast and maple syrup and the tornado in Ontario and the visit to Suncoast Video with Debbie Kittle, Marie Treleaven, and Ming Wathne. Sigh, I could go on forever...

Marti Schuller: Liked your comments re Ben Kenobi in the last issue of SE. It was so good to see you after so long spent in correspondence! And so funny to think that we were hanging around in the vicinity of one another for a while before we even knew it! I should have opened my mouth sooner — it would have been a dead giveaway.

Jacqueline Taero: Great LoC, full of fascinating possibilities! I too have a real problem with Leia calling her kid "Anakin". Partly because she showed so much aversion to her Daddy in one of the pro books (can't remember which), partly because she has no real reason to feel any kind of warmth towards Anakin, Sr.'s alter ego,

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and partly 'cause it's a stupid name, anyway.

M. J. Mink: Hi, there, oh person with the twisted mind and the totally evil laugh! Thanks for the kind words about the zine. 'Course, Issue Three of BF will be even better now you've got a story in it! It was great fun meeting you — though Wedge may not agree in the not-too-distant future...

Laura Virgil: Where was I when SW opened? Um, sitting in the theater... Sorry, I couldn't resist that. I have to admit that the film made absolutely no impact on me whatsoever. I thought Luke Skywalker was cute (I was eight or nine, and kind of impressionable) and I just assumed that the films were supposed to be like that. It was only eight years ago that I finally understood what all the fuss was about. I'd been a fan since ROTJ, I suppose, but the true impact didn't strike me until one night when watching a late double-feature of ANH and ROTJ, I suddenly realized just how awesome the opening scenes of SW actually are. To have experienced that for the first time later in life, with a greater knowledge and experience of cinema's achievements and limitations must have been incredible, and I must admit that I envy those who saw SW first with that kind of background. I certainly know that when I saw the dinosaurs "flocking" and leaping over the log in *Jurassic Park*, I felt I was witnessing a special moment in the history of motion picture making and I think I would have experienced a similar sense of excitement with SW. But it's not the same in retrospect, alas.

Marlene Karkoska: Yes, your name is still indelibly inscribed in my memory. It will be forever, I think. Glad you liked *Ormand*. Luke and Wedge do get to work as a team in at least one other story, which is kind of a sequel to "A.W.O.L.". But it won't be what you're expecting, I assure you! And they don't get trashed either! Believe it or not, I don't often trash my characters. Well, not very often, anyway. I think *Ormand* was my *piece de resistance* in trashing! (Phew! I hear Luke and Wedge say, in unison...) I do like the idea of Luke getting the girl. I'm young, free, single and happy with my lot 90% of the time. But despite my cynical approach to wedded bliss, I am at heart a romantic, and can't help wondering if Mr. Right exists somewhere. Okay, so I probably won't ever find him? No problem. I can live with that and I won't ever put up with second best. But find it quite amusing that most, if not all, of the characters I write about in SW (including Luke) end up paired off with someone. I like the idea of Luke winding up with a Jedi, too.

Mary Jo: Well, I wrote to you privately a while back about this subject, but felt I had to say once more that it'll be sad to lose you. We both see the universe in entirely different ways and we both have completely different approaches to current involvement by Lucasfilm. I went through an "it's official so it must be right" phase years

ago. I no longer subscribe to that point of view and I can't understand how you can defend the recent pro stuff so ferociously. In addition, I refuse to keep my opinions about the current state of the SW universe to myself. I do not like what's happened to it and that is that. But I really respect the way you've continually defended your own viewpoint and it is so dull and so tedious to have everyone singing the same party line. Your forthright and no nonsense writing style will be sorely missed, believe me! I hope you decide to come back soon and look forward to the day when your next LoC appears. And BF#3 is currently open for submissions, remember!

Matthew Whitney: Your U.S. box art for the videos is a hundred times more appetizing than the U.K. box art, believe me. I love the U.S. ANH and the U.S. TESB art — so much so that I actually bought a t-shirt with the ANH artwork on it (ask Debbie Kittle, she'll tell you...). I've made it a point of principle not to buy or wear any SW t-shirts over the years, because I've found them all rather tasteless, but this made a welcome exception to the rule, I assure you. Our video art is disgusting. It's too brightly colored, it's tacky, it's gross. (Gerald, do you agree or am I just overreacting as usual?) I agreed with you about Obi-Wan, too. The poor man comes in for a hell of a lot of stick, but I feel he's really doing the best he can under pretty dire circumstances. So he bent the truth a little? Who hasn't on occasion? (Hey, maybe he could get a job as a U.K. government spokesman for the mad cow crisis!) I also feel that books may never be replaced by computer software for the simple reason that one's much more prone to eyestrain reading a VDT than one is reading a paper text. At least I am. Maybe they'll have genetically-engineered eyes in the SW universe. But I like to think that they'll still use books in some shape or form.

Debbie Kittle: Remind me never to go shopping with you guys again! I mean that in jest, of course. I had a great time — though the credit card bill hasn't come through yet (shudder, shudder). Nearly didn't make it through the airport check-in, though. I think the Breyer horse was the last straw.

Maggie Nowakowska: I just read your response to John Fredericks, and I felt I had to jump in here. Your characterization of Lando in *Imperium* #5 was fascinating and the story was excellent. I've never really given much thought to Lando, I'm afraid. Too busy with other things, I suppose, but your story gave a really plausible depth to him, and if there's any similar examples planned, then write them! Please!! Some people out here really enjoy your work and want to read more. Gawd, I hope I didn't sound too pathetic and slurpy and brown-nosey just then... I got a hold of some of the old *Skywalker* zines at MWC, including *Skywalker* #5, and I'm looking forward to catching up with some of your earlier stuff.

Cheryl Pryor: Hi, there, Mrs. Darth! Having sold at least thirty-five zines this year at MWC I can now understand perfectly well why you got a chuckle out of my confusion. And having brought home about forty different zines I now find myself wondering where to start reading, too! And I thought my suitcase would be lighter coming home!

Tim Blaes: Here we go again. Hi, Tim! It was great to see you at MWC and so on... Um, "yes" and "no", are the answers to the questions you posed in your last LoC. And I might be the only one to admit to this vice, but I know I'm not the only one that feels that way. I've had several friends admit to it, too. Maybe I'm a neurotic dweeb, too, but I start getting paranoid when people don't talk to me. Now everyone knows how to get me paranoid!

Donna Frayser: The hunting came to nothing. I should maybe have tracked down Michelle Malkin at MWC but felt too insignificant to do so. Ah, well.

Catriona Campbell: Welcome back! It's good to see that you're going to rejoin the fray. Now get some stories written, ya waster!

Jennifer Moore: Just had to say "Hi", oh person with the wondrous accent! Any further hints about how to portray life in the navy properly would be greatly appreciated, you know!

Mary Jo's resignation letter and Catriona's return from the wilderness suddenly made me realize how much the names of the contributors have changed since I first got involved with SE. What became of Brian Harris, Amanda Palumbo and Veronica Wilson? You're missed, you know. And now a quick note to Marie Treleaven: get off your butt and contribute a LoC to this worthy publication, you good-for-nothing Under Deck Officer! Us archaeologists have to stick together, you know!

Finally, *Bad Feeling* #2 is now available, if you're interested and it's available for \$18. Checks to Debbie Kittle, as always.

And now I'd better sign off and get this mailed ASAP. It's late enough as it is and I've got a mail strike to contend with! Bye for now!



## STEADY RECOVERY

Catherine Churko  
590 Fort Washington Avenue #1M  
New York, NY 10033

July 2, 1996

Hello and a happy summer to all.

I'm slowly easing my way back into SE/SW zinedom. Since fall '94 (#40), I seemed to improve, until Nov. 94.

Then I had a series of relapses. More exhaustion, muscle stiffness/aches, insomnia and phobias. Fears of walking/doing too much=collapse; bus, let alone subway travel=unsafe too far from home and various levels of panic attacks. After the Jan. '95 snowstorm, my snow/ice phobia ('91 accident) returned too.

Spring's sweet wafting 60°+ instead felt like a 95° sledgehammer. In May I started disability applications.

When I found out last July it could take up to 5 months for an answer, the problems above skyrocketed. I tried to get more out-patient help but it got so bad I went with my family in early Aug. to our hospital ER. I ended up in the hospital 3-1/2 weeks. My free-fall was halted and real steady recovery began.

From then on, I kept on increasing my envelope/range/duration of activities — general and rehab. I tease apart these all unexpected phobias. Once my sleep patterns improve more, I can go from part time to full time rehab. The goal is to return to work.

This spring was even more exultant than usual. I visited/saw all the gardens I missed last year. I'm doing okay so far in the higher heat/humidity.

Traveling out of the city is still a hesitant thing (and from a gal who's criss-crossed the USA 15,000 miles by bus). I made a big leap — I revisited Washington, DC for 3 days at the end of May. At my hotel, I thought of those returned from MWC and I mentally waved to you nearby Dead Bothans.

Other Realms: I'm halfway through D. Brin's new Book 1, *Uplift* trilogy, *Brightness Reef*. Yea!

In the impatience of then-creeping up to illness, I rejected *Babylon 5* on one five minute glance at one character. At the behest of a friend "it's fascinating/intelligent", I then sometimes checked it out. Once I really improved, I steadily caught Season 2 reruns and became a devoted fan. IMHO, it has Brin's power of complex characters and his breadth/depth of universe by different races, layered through aeons of waves of civilization/developments. Plus, the visual beauty and mythic resonances of SW (even on small TV).

With no home computer or B5 fannish contact, I caught

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up — by luck! Was returning *Truce at Bakura* to the library 1-1/2 years late (got sick a week after I borrowed it). Afterwards, I headed to the magazine desk. But on the way I saw *30 Min. Web Access Free-Appnt. at Desk.* Oh?! (And printers too.)

On my third appointment, I remembered B5 and “went fishing”. Now I have episode synopses, fan humor, creative and speculation printouts. What fun!

Sliding into SW-dom: (Oh, I like *Sliders* too!) Interesting to note the different intros into fandom. B5 — the Web; SW — picked up 2 items at cons.

Vice Versa: If you know of printed B5 zines or SW Web sites by SWzine/SE fen we know, please tell me. (I briefly scrolled the gazillion link sites on just one SW Web page.)

SE41-44: I only got these issues this April so I can only say belated condolences for lost loved ones, congrats for first pro work, new family members, new abodes, and good luck to pro attempts.

The Prequels: George might be reminded by JMS (B5)’s use of lots of computer FX and great characters and story. I want to know the past stories — there’s intense psychological/spiritual/political aspects to be told!

Tina (41) / Z.P. (44): Hi, there! The overviews I read mostly cast TESB as the “darkest” in tone. By the end of ROTJ, we know there are victories — Anakin’s return, Luke’s resistance (as Z. P. put it); so the prequels could take the darker tones. And along with deceit, betrayal and evil, there’s striving, courage and resistance as well.

A sudden thought — what if GL used his current sales assets as a hedge against/a bolster to the expected loss of a drop in super mass audience attendance revenues — should he go a real serious route on the prequels. (Hey, it’s a thought.)

Brian/Z.P. (41): Thanks for your nice words on my ideas (40).

Maggie (41): Hello. Great letter! I need to reread it yet again — do/do not/try; Global Ethics Inst ideas (hmmm — a website maybe?); the definitions of hero/good guy/gal. (On Boomers — I have vague theories that there are differences because between early-middle and late Boomers, there was so much acceleration of different ideas/events/reactions in each segment of children generally reaching an age when they really start to take notice of the ever-expanding world outside their homes and events that affect them/their families directly/indirectly.)

Mickey (41): Hi. Causing trouble — I’d like to see “Lookie...”)

Louise (41): Never saw anything else on that site. (I’ll try the Web. (43) Assume/hope the B5 novels won’t turn you off to the TV novel. Glad you’re still in SWdom.

Z. P. (42): If Hambley almost convinced you of Ben’s need to lie to Luke — heh! *This* I gotta read! (43) I’ve

read/seen many fans’ descriptions of lightsabers as beautifully crafted. Yes, no hiding from what you’re about to do/be done to in combat. In a B5 episode, I bet they deliberately underlit a starfighter’s helmet so the obscured face reinforced the faceless aspect of mass killing at a distance.

Nancy S. (43): So nice to see you in SE. Funny cartoon! We met briefly at a late 80’s MWC. Love your work.

Marlene (43): Ah, I remember your name from back-ordered SE’s before #14 (my intro). Good ideas on the Jedi (and bashing!).

Laura (44): Cool. Another artist I remember from my old issues of zines collected pre-’87. I want to learn computer illoing for fun and \$\$ and keep my old methods, too.

Re Maggie (44) SE50: Great idea! For me, though, I’d like to see something else along with readers/LoCers bios and photos.

Some ideas: A choice of 2 or 3 SE/SW/zine themes for commentary or answers (2-3 paragraphs):

Writers: a made-up SW scene 2-3 paragraphs — most funny/sad/uplifting/mysterious, etc. If we have bells and whistles, how about Z. P. doing a color version of her mastheads and other artists doing color spot illos?

Well, running out of room. It’s nice to return here. Hope things will be going well/better for all of us.

## EVOLUTION OF A JEDI

Amanda Palumbo  
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Lake Peekskill, NY 10537

June 19, 1996

Greetings and belated vernal equinox to all! While literally absent, my thoughts *have* been with most. What a strange cycle, April 1995-1996!

Many thanks to those who have been so warmly supportive during my mother-in-law’s protracted illness; the battle’s personal FX would’ve been so much harder to cope with without you all. Happily, in defiance of the medical world’s prognoses, she’s still on this mortal plane. Hopefully, those others of our small universe in similar straights are holding ground as well. May the Force be with you all, too; you know who you are.

In addition, I am another who’s preparing to change residences, though not until near the end of the year — seems to be contagious, from Nora to Judith!

Sorry to miss MWC; mucho fun last year. I’d heard



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there were more foreign participants this year, some who are personal friends. Were there swashbucklers and kendo demonstrations and mini-lessons again? Was Python "Madame X" slithering through the art show once more? Twas amusing to see an Indy-garbed Barbara Anderson stroking this affectionate reptile last year; Jones' kind of gal: fearless, inventive. :) Even sorrier to not witness "Oola" Anderson pirouettes.

Jacqueline: Congrats on Star Award! While "mentioning Daddy" to lure Luke on "some damn fool mission" is "weak", it would be in character. If he'd truly attempted to "bequeath" the heirloom previously and was thwarted by Owen's refusal to permit this, Kenobi would probably attempt this again.

While we have no way of knowing if Tatooine was a previous haunt of either Obi-Wan or Anakin/Darth's, would Vader's ambitious pride permit the Sith Lord's possibly known son to languish unproductively? In his position, Luke could've been whisked away years back to some sequestered nurturing/training environ.

Sensing the boy's strength, but not familial tie, in the Death Star trench leads me to believe Darth knew not.

As far as Leia's concerned, despite the "sudden" acknowledgment of lineage, Vader neither knew in ANH nor ROTJ. While I agree that some aspects *did* seem later scripting ideas, is ROTJ to be deemed non-canonical? If so, why stop there? Perhaps parts of TESB should be jettisoned? Of course, it's the beauty of fandom that we can (still) bandy this, via debate or zine storyline. However, the Saga is quite consistent, neatly wrapping up loose ends while simultaneously creating new questions.

Would Luke's name necessarily have to be changed, given the remoteness of Tatooine? Would the Republic's and Empire's computer birth-registry files have been programmed to flag any "Skywalker" entries? The art of concealment within the psychology of underestimation seems possible.

IMO, Obi-Wan's posthumous explanation might've been an attempt to unburden his lying soul (again, IMO) where Leia's concerned. But *she* has no reason to buy into any of this. Perhaps she was able to sense the truth in Luke's word — unless it was the firmness of Luke's conviction of belief in Kenobi's story, yet wouldn't he have been especially watchful for distortions on Obi-Wan's part, and *not* gone on to extrapolate that Leia was his twin? If so, where is the "skill" in truth discernment of Jedi? How do we even know that Luke *is* really a Skywalker and not named that as cover when given to the Larses to raise? *Is* Darth Vader even a Skywalker, or some Palpie-induced vision to provide a chink in that extremely ambitious black armor?

My basis for accepting the truth in the 3-way relation is that all three bear similar expressions where that

infamous Skywalker anger is concerned, and that in no way are Leia nor Darth naive! There *is* also a resemblance in both the slightness of physique of the Twins and in their facial structure.

Everybody: Why is Luke so often portrayed as having sustained no growth, despite much evidence to the contrary? He's coped with tremendous family loss. Been given commanding positions. Accepted into Jedi training when Yoda could've easily refused (didn't seem hurried to enter the fray, vicariously or otherwise) to be later received without enmity upon returning to his Master? Luke's lack of continued grieving (and Leia's) in ANH isn't surprising when many trauma victims find refuge in numbness and/or work. Apathy and shock-induced numbness do not necessarily go hand-in-appendage.

Skywalker also demonstrates maturity in not drawing a blaster on the Ewoks as he had done with Yoda. (No, I don't view Han's action as that; his motivations and belief structure are obviously different, as well as comfort of upbringing. After all, where would Luke and the Alliance have been had Solo not returned?) Regressing even further, when Ben had dangled the choice plum of travel to such a cosmopolitan world *and* training as a *warrior* to boot, *Luke turned away* from what at that point could possibly have been his only chance — in that lifetime — to fulfill his dreams. This character does indeed display a documentable line of evolvement. At ROTJ's end, he is the character that when challenged in every aspect, emerges as a loving *brother* figure to both Han and Leia, and belief system intact. No evidence is given that he's unable to successfully move on from one victoriously-completed goal to another — the resurrection of the Jedi, requiring utmost physical *and* mental stamina!

Liz Sharpe and Sue Zahn: Carolyn had cheerfully offered West End submission info to any interested at MWC '95. Of course, since then LFL in continued fascist character, ordered the Gaming Co. to refuse fan subs. The dating of that edict puts GollEDGE in the opportune area of "Grandfather Clause". More power to her, and *both* of you for openly debating this always-volatile issue.

M. J. Mink: Probably more like "God bless" or "God speed." Oh, "my" Luke's not completely a good boy either. Too one-dimensional. Love your take.

Gerald: At least you'll recognize Threepio in the upcoming new films. Well, LFL has now *thrice* publicly printed its refusal to include the ethereal Biggs sequences. We *are* getting somewhere ... I think. Want to trade *Erasure* cartoons? I've a doozie.

And to those who haven't heard: Yes, I did have the opportunity to both serve as interviewer's "assistant" *and* participate when Mark Hamill was the subject. The man's a diabolical blast, and while I was in the unenviable position of *not* being able to display either affection or

leanings, the absolute *gift* of being able to *converse* with this amazing guy for nearly an hour and a half in a low-key setting was worth having to keep the hormones in check. The article's due out in November, according to my friend. Those wanting particulars are welcome to SASE to receive the 6 pages of basic overview (please check if that's one or two stamps with the PO). Thanks to my dearest friend for providing the opportunity and God for permitting one who's generally in the wrong place and time to manage the *right* appointment with Fate! I am further humbled.

Z. P.: Congrats to you as well for "Rancor." Say, I thought you were the one with whips and chains! I am positively miserable having missed this year's MWC doll display. Good fortune with model-building next year's cantina display. My daughters want to help — they've "outgrown" our cardboard and twisty-tie and phone wire setup.

Nancy Stasulis  
P. O. Box 5219  
Laytonsville, MD 20882

Marlene: While I myself prefer to think fondly of Mrs. Skywalker as you do, Luke already had one on-screen parent chastise him where Daddy felt needed, save our boy from death, and then reach from *beyond* to smile paternal approval. Ah, to be so loved...

One for all once more: Could Leia's necklace in ANH have been from her biological mother?

To all missed: Hasn't it been nice seeing Han on cereal boxes again? I couldn't be happier knowing my fandaughters "Get the Sensation" in their generation, too.

CONGRATS TO ALL AWARD WINNERS — YOU RICHLY DESERVE IT!

Cheree: As always, the discriminatingly-bequeathed Golden Twinkie Award to you for all you've done to keep both this forum and *A Tremor in the Force* alive!





## CURRENTLY IN PORT

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #9. Material from Martie Benedict-O'Brien, Veronica Wilson, Marti Schuller, Pat Nussman, Z. P. Florian, Mary Jo Fox, Jacqueline Taero, Wanda Lybarger, MJ Mink, Donna Frayser, Susan Zahn, Maggie Nowakowska, and others. Color covers by Nancy Stasulis and Gerald Crotty. Other art by Wanda Lybarger, Gerald Crotty, Z. P. Florian, Laura Virgil, Mark and Melea Fisher, and more. \$28.00 priority mail, \$35.00 overseas airmail. Please make checks payable to: Cheree Cargill, 114 Villanova Circle, Forney, TX 75126.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #8. Featuring the return of Martie Benedict, back after an absence of over 5 years! Also material by Anson, Campbell, Cargill, Ghilan, Golledge, Hines-Stroede, Jones, Mayers, Schuller, Taero, Turner, Wilson, and more of your favorite writers. Art by Churko, Crotty, Florian, Lybarger, Guttierrez, Stasulis, and more! Includes several 1994 Star Award winners — Best Cover Art, Best Illo Artist, Best Cartoons, Best Filk, Best Vignette, Best Short Story, many others. Also Fan Q winner for Best SW story — "Mercy Mission". \$28.00 priority mail, \$35.00 overseas airmail. Checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 114 Villanova Circle, Forney, TX 75126.

ELUSIVE LOVER #1. First issue of a fanzine dedicated to Luke Skywalker and Han Solo: steamy and passionate, gentle and romantic, adventurous and playful. Discover what a great pair of lovers the Jedi and the scoundrel make... 180 pages, high quality artwork included. \$22 US Surface; Pound 11/DM 23 Europe (*Slash; Age statement required*). For info send SAE + IRC to: Anoot Press c/o Pfau, Cheruskerstr. 11, 10829 Berlin, Germany.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL #1. Now available. A light-hearted comedy-adventure zine featuring stories by Florian, Steyn, Treleaven, Schuller, Fox, White, Kittle, Cargill, Palumbo, Mink, Mayers, Ebberley, Wilson, Zahn, Golledge and Kiser. Artwork by Florian, Stasulis, Lybarger, Crotty, Pearce, Palumbo and Swindle. A full color back cover by A. G. Steyn. Plus poems, filks, jokes and cartoons. All this for the incredibly low price of \$23.00. Overseas zines sent ground rate. 250 pp., GBC bound. Checks or money orders payable to Judith Yuenger, 13491 S. Silverleaf Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL #2. Due out May 1996. Stories by Kittle, Mink, Golledge, Treleaven, Olsen, Schuller, White, Fox, Steyn, Florian, Ebberley, Pryor Wilson. Artwork by Pearce, Florian, Stasulis, Whitham, and Lybarger. A full color back cover by Nancy Stasulis. Plus a special section that will tickle your funnybone and an added surprise. Should be 200+ pp. SASE for price to Judith Yuenger, 13491 S. Silverleaf Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS (TOO!): The Second "Bad Feeling" is now available, with stories by Campbell, Dutech, Fox, Florian, Godsvalve, Grant, McBride, Schuller and Turner. With artwork by Lundin, Lybarger and Tidswell, non-fiction by Boyes, and filks by Kittle! 100 pages, card cover, spiral bound. Now available for \$18.00, including airmail postage. Please make checks (U.S. dollars) to Deborah Kittle. For further information or to order, contact Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Please enclose an Internatinoal Reply Coupon with all inquiries about this and other zines.

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**POWERSTAR.** The Imagination Anthology. Issue 99 features "People Like Peggy" by Pamela Brown, a *War of the Worlds* novella. Also, Power Star Shareware Distributors, movie reviews, more. For info, SASE Kimberley Murphy-Smith, 9640-K Barrel House Road, Laurel, MD 20723; or contact us via e-mail at kimberly.murphy@acenet.com or kimmurphy@aol.com.

**SNOWFIRE #2.** Still celebrating Princess Leia! This issue will feature a celebration of her relationship with Han, emphasizing *her* viewpoint. SASE for info to Mary Jo Fox, PO Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

**STAR WARS BIBLIOGRAPHY.** Have you ever wondered what MM zine has a SW story that you wanted to read? Does MM zine have enough SW stories in it to warrant your purchase? Have you ever wondered if an author has done further stories? Now there is a place to find that information. The SW Bibliography is available in two versions — listing by zines and listings by author, complete with updates through 1995. \$6.00 each or \$10.00 for both. Checks or money orders payable to: Judith Yuenger, 13491 S. Silverleaf Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544.

**STRAIGHT BLAKE'S #1** (reprint): The long out-of-print heterosexual-adult Blake's 7 zine, first published in 1988, has been completely reformatted and reprinted. SB#1 features delicious adult stories about Avon, Vila and the rest by Liz Sharpe, Pat Nussman, Susan Matthews and more, with a cover by Karen River. \$15 first class mail from Bill Hupe and Peg Kennedy, 916 Lamb Rd., Mason, MI 48854-9445. Age statement required when ordering.

**STRAIGHT BLAKE'S #2:** B7 fandom's only hetero adult zine is back for a second issue with stories by Liz Sharpe, Ann Wortham and Leah Rosenthal, Aurora, Judith Proctor, Michelle Moyer, Catherine, Liz Vogel, Irish, Kathy Moran, Vanessa Mullen, and Rhapsodie, plus art by Karen River, Leah Rosenthal, Phoenix, Leigh Motooka, and Val Westal. Color cover by Karen River. 100 pp., spiral bound. \$13.50 first class mail from Bill Hupe and Peg Kennedy, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9445. Age statement required.

**THE ORMAND FACTOR #1.** Volume One of a two-volume post-ROTJ novel by Louise Turner, illustrated by Gerald Crotty. As recommended by Campbell and Dutech in SE #34! Join Wedge Antilles and Luke Skywalker as they struggle against the remnants of the Imperial forces in a race to discover the truth behind old spacer's rumors of an alien power source in the Outer Rim. For a detailed plot synopsis and costs, please send an SAE/International Reply Coupon to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain.

Copies will be 180 pp. in length, laser-printed and photocopied, and spiral bound. Available from December 1993, with Volume 2 to follow early in 1994.

**THE ORMAND FACTOR #2.** Volume two is now available. Join Luke Skywalker and Wedge Antilles for the conclusion of Louise Turner's novel, where our intrepid heroes run into the kind of trouble that wouldn't seem out of place in a story by Golledge! With stunning artwork by the one and only Gerald Crotty. With 212 pages of text, xeroxed and spiral-comb bound, Volume Two of *The Ormand Factor* can be yours for \$30.00 including airmail postage. Payment by U.S. cheque is acceptable. For further inquiries, please write (including an International Reply Coupon) to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Special rates for surface mail or for bulk orders of more than one zine.

**THOUSANDWORLDS COLLECTED.** This three volume set of Maggie Nowakowska's classic alternate universe adventure is still available. Price (including postage): #1 — \$18.00, #2 — \$23.00, #3 — \$11.00, or the entire set \$46.00. Please make checks payable to: Linda Deneroff, 704 East Thomas #103, Seattle, WA 98102.

## COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

**A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #10.** Yep, I've decided to do at least one more issue of TF. Since this will be the 10th issue, I want it to be an extra special one. I want the best of the best for this one. I already have a new installment of *Penumbra* from Catriona Campbell. Nancy Stasulis has a wonderful color anniversary grouping in the works for the cover. A special feature I'd like to have is a color portfolio from SW fandom's best artists. There are sure to be even more surprises. If you're a newer writer or artist, however, don't let this intimidate you. I'd still love to see what you have. Newer contributors often come up with the best, freshest approaches to stories, poetry or art. If you are interested in submitting material, please SASE Cheree Cargill, 114 Villanova Circle, Forney, TX 75126, or e-mail me at ChereeC@AOL.com.

**ELUSIVE LOVER #2:** Now open for submissions of fiction, poetry, art — we're looking for material exploring the passionate adventures of Han Solo and Luke Skywalker. We encourage characterization, original plots

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and variety in general. Explicit and romantic both welcome. Deadline Jan. 1997. Scheduled publication date: May 1997. For info and guidelines please send SAE + IRC to: Anoat Press c/o Pfau, Cheruserstr. 11, 10829 Berlin, Germany.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #6. Once more into the breach! It's the "family values" issue. I'm looking for some good stories and art dealing with our heroes and their childhoods, children, family relationships (maybe Han & Leia's wedding?), etc. As always, FACPOV prefers upbeat, positive pieces with our heroes as a prominent part, but I'll look at well-written dark drama. I'm shooting for a spring printing, so I'll try to be prompt with revision requests. SASE Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL #3. Now accepting submissions of fiction and artwork. We are predominantly a comedy, light-hearted adventure zine but would love to have "serious" stories also. Publication due May 1997. For further information, contact Judith Yuenger, 13491 S. Silverleaf Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS #3 is now accepting submissions. With stories already accepted by Campbell, Mink and Turner. Stories should be G-R rated, though exceptions to this rule may be cleared with the editor. No slash, please. For submissions guidelines, please write — including an International Reply Coupon — to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain.

RENAISSANCE is open for submissions of SW fiction, art, filks, poetry and cartoons. We're looking for the weird, the offbeat, humor, tragedy, alternate universes or traditional adventures. Scheduled publication: MW 1997. For more information or guidelines, please SASE MJ Mink, 8805 SW Cashmur Lane #1, Portland OR 97225, or Judith Klinger Scheffelstr. 1, 10367 Berlin, Germany..

SEE YOU AT RENDEZVOUS is now open for submissions of writing, art, filks, etc. This is most definitely a one-shot zine devoted to that inimitable X-wing pilot, Wedge Antilles, and I'm looking for stories, artwork, ec. focusing on Wedge. I'm looking for a wide variety of stories which celebrate Wedge in all his guises — from stories set in any official or unofficial or alternative universes. Stories should be from G-R rating, with no slash please. For further information, please contact: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland PA11 3JD, Great Britain.

STRAIGHT BLAKE'S #3: Now collecting straight adult

stories for the third issue. I'm particularly looking for stories featuring Tarrant (missing from SB#2) and longer, plotted stories, as well as the ever-popular PWP. Deadline: February 15, 1996 for a MediaWest 1996 publishing date. For more information or to submit, contact Pat Nussman at 1612 Evergreen St., Sebring, FL 33870 or e-mail p.nussman@genie.geis.com.

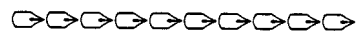
## OTHER WORLDS

ART PRINTS — Full color prints. Han and Leia (1990 Star Award/Best Cover Art) by Dianne Smith. Luke by Melanie Gutierrez. Vader by Nancy Stasulis, bareback Han by Dianne Smith. Suitable for framing. \$2.50 each. Cheree Cargill, 114 Villanova Circle, Forney, TX 75126.

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